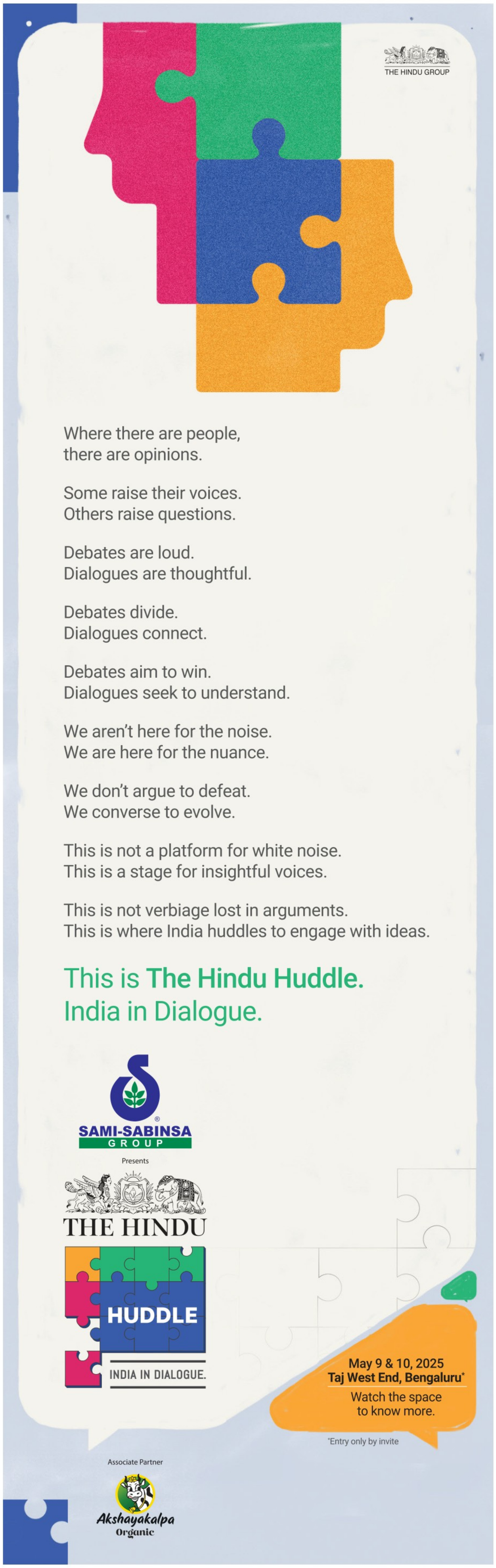
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Others raise questions.
Debates are loud.
Dialogues are thoughtful.
Debates divide.
Dialogues connect.
Debates aim to win.
Dialogues seek to understand.
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We are here for the nuance.
We don't argue to defeat.
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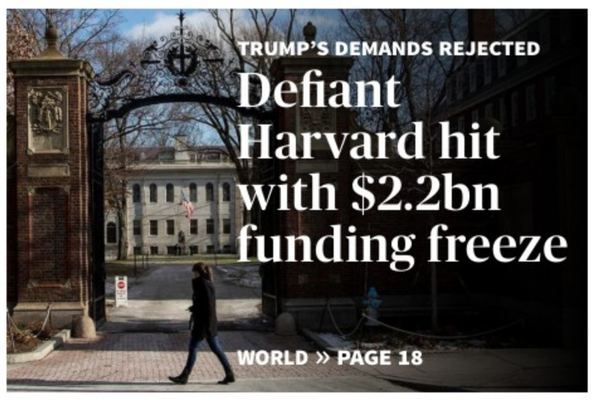
CMRL PAY-OFF CASE

ED to look into money laundering angle

SOUTH » PAGE 11



TRUMP'S DEMANDS REJECTED

Defiant Harvard hit with $2.2bn funding freeze

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BENGAL VIOLENCE

9 arrested in Bhangar, 221 in Murshidabad

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Proclamation of democracy in legislature

SC has removed perceived immunities

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Chahal and Jansen help Kings defend 111

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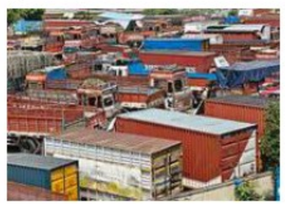

Lorry operators to continue strike

BENGALURU
Despite a meeting with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Tuesday evening, the Federation of Karnataka State Lorry Owners' and Agents' Association refused to call off its indefinite strike, which began on Tuesday. » PAGE 4

'Caste census survey was scientific'

BENGALURU
Amidst Veerashaiva-Lingayat and Vokkaliga communities terming the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey "unscientific", those involved say it is scientific. » PAGE 8

OPPORTUNITIES » PAGE 7

Retail inflation eases to 3.34%, lowest since 2019

Cooling in food prices seen as key factor; softening inflation trails 2 repo rate cuts by RBI; analysts expect price rise to stay below 4% in coming months, possibly leading to a further 50 bps rate cut

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Retail inflation eased to a five-and-a-half-year low of 3.34% in March, from 3.61% in the previous month, mostly due to lower food prices, according to data from the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. Vegetables, eggs, and pulses were significantly cheaper, though edible oils and fruits continued to see high inflation.

Rural inflation came in at a lower 3.25% in March, down from 3.79% in February, though urban inflation increased marginally from 3.32% in February to 3.43% in March.

Fuel and light inflation increased moderately to 1.48%, with prices rising for the first time since September 2023.

Consumer food price inflation hit a three-year low of 2.7% in March, a sharp drop from 3.75% in the previous month, according to data from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy. The slowing prices come on the heels of two consecutive repo rate cuts, each by 25 basis points (bps) or 0.25%, by the Reserve Bank of India indicating that the central bank is more worried about growth than inflation.

Economists agreed that the inflation is likely to stay under 4% in the coming months, which they said would prompt a 50 bps rate cut. "The softer than expected [Consumer Price Inflation] CPI will provide further comfort to the RBI to continue to prioritise growth. We retain our view that the RBI will continue on its accommodative stance with the terminal repo rate likely around 5% to 5.25%," said Upasna Bharadwaj, the chief economist at Kotak Mahindra Bank.

Kerala had the highest inflation of 6.6% followed by Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Assam, and Haryana which all had inflation of above 3.3%. Inflation was lowest in Delhi and Telangana coming in at 1.5% and 1.1% respectively.

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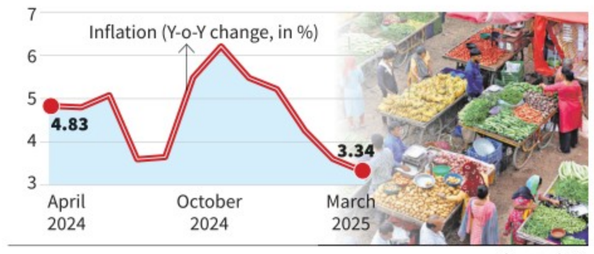
TRADE DEFICIT WIDENS
» PAGE 17

Cooling prices

Retail inflation in March was the lowest since August 2019 as food prices continued to moderate



Source: CMIE

Up and about

The graph shows the fall and rise of the BSE Sensex over the past month

Buying in banking, auto stocks lifts key Indian indices

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Indian frontline indices on Tuesday surged over 2% led by buying in banking and auto stocks. The S&P BSE Sensex gained 1,578 points, or 2.1%. The BSE Midcap index gained 3.03%, and the BSE Smallcap rose 3.21%.

The NSE Nifty-50 index surged 500 points.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 17

National Herald case: ED files chargesheet against Sonia, Rahul

Ishita Mishra
Devesh K Pandey
NEW DELHI

Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in New Delhi on Monday. PTI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) has filed a prosecution complaint against senior Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, Sam Pitroda, and others, in an alleged money laundering case related to Associated Journals Limited, which owns the *National Herald* newspaper.

On Tuesday, a special Delhi court posted the matter for its consideration on April 25. The ED had filed the chargesheet on April 9.

According to sources, the complaint has been filed under Sections 44 and 45 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act.

"The supplementary chargesheet has named Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, the party's overseas chief, Sam Pitroda, and Suman Dubey as accused," said a source, adding that others named include Young Indian, Dotex Merchandise Private Limited, and Sunil Bhandari. The ED probe had started in 2021, based on a June 2014 order issued by a Patiala House court metropolitan magistrate following a private complaint filed by BJP leader Subramanian Swamy. The accused have denied the charges on multiple occasions.

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CONG. TO OPPOSE MOVE
» PAGE 15

District Administration, Zilla Panchayat and Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi
and Dept. of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood,
Karnataka Skill Development Corporation, Bengaluru
Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
More than 1 lakh JOB OPPORTUNITIES
16th April 2025
Dr. Mallikarjuna Kharge, Hon'ble Leader of Opposition and MP (Rajya Sabha) Sri Siddaramaiah, Hon'ble Chief Minister and Sri D. K. Shivakumar, Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister participated in a KDP meeting of Kalyana Karnataka Region.
KALYANA KARNATAKA
UDYOGA MELA
Yuva Samruddi Sammelana
9:00 AM to 5:00 PM
K.C.T College Campus, Kalaburagi- 585104
Inaugural Function at 11.00 A.M.
Inauguration by
Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister
Govt. of Karnataka
August Presence
Dr. Mallikarjun Kharge
Hon'ble Leader of Opposition
and MP (Rajya Sabha)
Chief Guests
Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister
Govt. of Karnataka
Sri Priyank Kharge
Hon'ble Minister for RDPR, IT & Bt and District-in-Charge, Kalaburagi, Govt. of Karnataka
Dr|| Sharanaprakash R. Patil
Hon'ble Minister for Medical Education and Skill Development, Entrepreneurship and Livelihood and District-in-Charge, Raichur
Govt. of Karnataka
Dr|| Sharanaprakash R. Patil, Minister for Medical Education and Skill Development, Entrepreneurship & Livelihood participated in the departmental meeting with Sri Priyank Kharge, Minister for RDPR, IT & Bt and Smt. Shivakantamma, Chairperson, Karnataka Skill Development Corporation.
Presided by
Smt. Kaneez Fatima
Hon'ble Chairperson, Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation (L), Bangalore and MLA, Kalaburagi North
Honorable Presence
Sri B. Z. Zameer Ahmed Khan
Hon'ble Minister for Housing, Wakf and Minorities Welfare and District-in-Charge, Vijayanagar and Bellary, Govt. of Karnataka
Sri Easwara B. Khandre
Hon'ble Minister for Forest, Environment and Biology and District-in-Charge, Bidar, Govt. of Karnataka
Sri Thangadgi Shivaraj Sangappa
Hon'ble Minister for Backward Classes Welfare, Kannada and Culture and District-in-Charge, Koppala, Govt. of Karnataka
Sri N. S. Boseraju
Hon'ble Minister for Minor Irrigation and Science and Technology, Govt. of Karnataka
Sri Doddanagouda Hanamagouda Patil
Hon'ble Chief Whip of Opposition and MLA, Kushtagi
Sri Hampanagouda Badarli
Hon'ble Chairman, Karnataka State Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation and MLA, Sindhanur
Sri B. R. Patil
Hon'ble Vice Chairman, Karnataka State Policy and Planning Commission and MLA, Aland
Sri G.T. Patil
Hon'ble Chairman, Hatti Gold Mines Limited and MLA, Bilagi
Sri J.N. Ganesh
Hon'ble Chairman, Handloom Development Corporation (L) and MLA, Kampli
Sri Sharanabasappa Darshanapura
Hon'ble Minister for Small Industries and Public Enterprises and District-in-Charge, Yadgir, Govt. of Karnataka
Sri Rahim Khan
Hon'ble Minister for Municipal Administration and Haj, Govt of Karnataka
Sri D. Sudhakar
Hon'ble Minister for Planning and Statistics and District-in-Charge, Chitradurga, Govt. of Karnataka
Sri Chalavadi Narayana Swamy
Hon'ble Leader of the Opposition Legislative Council
Sri Basavaraja Rayareddy
Hon'ble Chief Minister's Economic Advisor and MLA, Yelaburga
Sri M. Y. Patil
Hon'ble Chairman, Kalyana Karnataka Transport Corporation, Kalaburagi and MLA, Afzalpura
Dr|| Ajay Dharmasingh
Hon'ble Chairman, Kalyana Karnataka Area Development Board, Kalaburagi and MLA, Jewargi
Sri Basanagowda Daddal
Hon'ble Chairman, Karnataka Scheduled Tribes Development Corporation and MLA, Raichur Rural
Sri Basanagowda Turuvihal
Hon'ble Chairman, Karnataka State Khadi and Village Industries Board and MLA, Maski
Sri Baburao Chinchansur
Hon'ble Chairman, Karnataka Nijasharana Ambigara Chowdaiah Development Corporation Limited, Bengaluru
And all MPs, MLAs and all elected representatives of Kalyana Karnataka region
Our Karnataka Guarantee Karnataka
Welcome to All
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We've already surprised a few people. I hope we have more surprises in us

National coach Flemming talks about the process of being a great half-court defensive team, the importance of creating three-pointers by being a fast-break outfit and the need for more leagues

R. RAVINDRAN

INTERVIEW

SCOTT FLEMMING

S. Prasanna Venkatesan

American Scott Flemming is nearly one year into his second stint as the India National basketball team coach. Besides his first run with the National team from 2012 to 2015, he has coached in the NBA Development League (G League), been the Technical Director of the NBA Academy in India, and been to a few other countries to mould talent as a coach.

Speaking to *The Hindu* on the sidelines of the recently-concluded South Asia Basketball Association (SABA) Club Championship at the Nehru indoor stadium in Chennai, Flemming spoke about India's Asia Cup qualification and the resultant takeaways, shaping the team's identity as a great three-point shooting team, the pathway for Indian basketball's progress and more. Excerpts:

In 5x5, India beat Iraq and the higher-ranked Bahrain in the final qualifying tournament to secure a FIBA Asia Cup berth for the 11th consecutive time. In 3x3, it made it as far as the quarterfinals of the Asia Cup. What are your thoughts on that?

March has been a good month for the Indian team, both 5x5 and 3x3. Really proud of our guys. We were missing a few players due to injuries. The guys really played well. We had a good two weeks of training, which we hadn't had for a while. It was a solid two weeks of putting our system back in and everything.

We got off to a good start against Iraq and didn't look back and won that by (a margin of) 20 (97-77), and then played a Bahrain team that was 15 spots higher than we were (India 81 and Bahrain 66) in the rankings. After we beat Iraq, we thought we were probably going to get into the Asia Cup and we now are, after beating Bahrain (81-77).

We played pretty good defence. We're a three-point shooting team and we came out and did it again. It bites you every once in a while when you're not hitting them but I think we hit 15 and 14 threes in those games. That's what we do and that's what we're good at.

And then, of course, the 3x3, I felt good. I've been coaching these boys since they were 14 years old. They had already played a lot of 3x3 together and I really give them a lot of the credit. I've seen them growing up through the NBA Academy and then onto the National team. I did a little bit of tweaking, but I will give them most of the credit for what they did.

We beat three teams ranked higher than us (Iraq and Bahrain in 5x5 and Chinese Taipei in 3x3) and I'll tell you, we really could have beaten China (India lost 19-21 in 3x3). And China ended up losing by two (points) in the final (China lost 19-21 to Australia). We really feel like we belonged with the best teams in Asia.

Where did that two-week training take place and what was the focus in that period?

We trained in Chennai and we had the training camp up in Delhi, which was during the Indian National Basketball League and it was just kind of hectic and hard. We'd been training before that, but we had two straight weeks of just getting our system kind of back in. Because when they leave and they come back, they forget a lot of what we did and they're in different systems from different coaches. That's the difficulty with the National team. But I felt like we had two weeks of re-establishing our system: how we play and what we want to do.

What are the major takeaways from the wins against Iraq and Bahrain?

There are a few things we've got to do well. One of them is that we've got to be a good half-court defensive team. We have to rebound the ball well and we did pretty well in those games.

Palpreet (Singh Brar) had 16 boards in that second game. And then we have got to really move the basketball and look for open men. We can't just come down and put it up. But if you had noticed, a lot of our baskets were inside out. We're driving to the basket, we kick it back out.

We can't just stand out there and shoot threes. We've got to be a threat going to the basket. When we become a threat to the basket, then we're hitting all those threes.

There are some things that we struggle with but there are some things we do well, we have to make sure that we take care of those things. I felt we played pretty good basketball. We had a few runs against Bahrain where we let them back in the game, but we answered them every time. We weathered the storm and then came right back at them.

What do you think is currently lacking in Indian basketball?

I've been asked that for 10 years. We're behind some other countries, but we're certainly catching up. This is a country where cricket is the religion. Basketball is coming up, but it's still nothing like in the country I'm from or in countries like China, Iran, or the Philippines, countries where basketball is the number one sport.

The other thing is that they have Pro Leagues. We're kind of getting there. We've got the INBL and we still need a long way to go. When there's a good established Pro League here, that'll make a difference because a lot of these countries have that and these players are going to get to play against better players than just against each other.

Our National team has no one to play here in India. We have to leave the country to get competition because the best players are on the National team and we don't have as many. The numbers are getting larger and we're a really young team too. The peak of this team is going to be in three or four years because we've got a lot of players in their early twenties on this team.

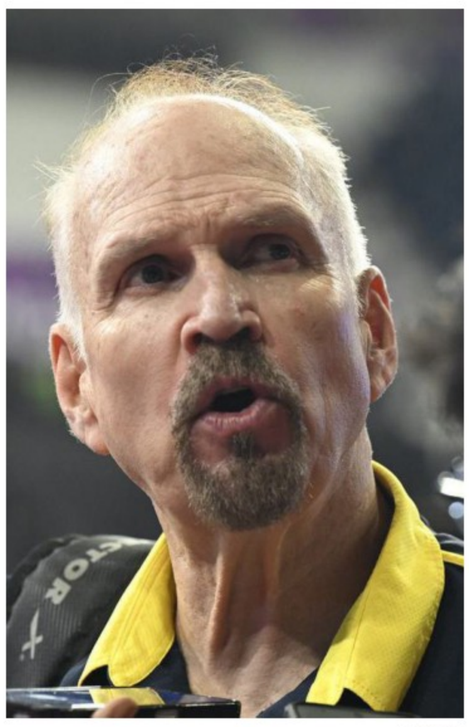
When these guys get to be in their mid-to-late twenties, that's when we're going to be at our best. We're going to try to get there as quickly as we can and we already have in many ways. But if people are patient, three or four years from now, we're going to really be a team to be reckoned with.

What sort of realistic goals can we expect the team to achieve in 3-4 years?

There are big goals and there are short-term goals. When I got here, I said my goal was to win one game because they hadn't won a game against anybody higher-ranked than them for 10 years. The first goal was to win one game (against a higher-ranked team). And if we win one game, then our next goal was to make the Asia Cup. We've done that.

Now we have a goal to do well in the Asia Cup. I won't give you a certain number right now, but we need to win some games and make some noise in the Asia Cup. I think we'll try to win the Asia Cup but I think it'll probably be more doable as time goes on.

You have to be realistic and be patient with the team as well. There wasn't a lot of winning for a long time. We've now won three games in less than six months against quality opponents (Kazakhstan, Iraq, and Bahrain), with two of them (Kazakhstan and Bahrain) ranked higher than we are.



R. RAGU

People should be encouraged by the direction in which it's going, but we have a long way to go. I talk to our guys a lot about narrowing the gap with the Chinas and the Koreas and the Irans.

It's been close to a year now in your second stint as the India coach. What improvements do you see in the team?

You have to have a system of play when you have a team like this, a National team. We're not going to just roll the balls out with just talent, height and athleticism and beat people. We've got good players but we need to put a system in place to really emphasize their strengths and try to hide their weaknesses.

It doesn't always work but I think overall the guys have bought into it. It really helps to have some steady training and it helps also to play some other people. We played a couple of times in Dubai (by the end of last year) and we had some trips planned but they didn't work out. Hopefully in this next stretch, we'll get to play some more exposure games too.

When you say there should be a system of play, what do you mean by that?

The first thing we have to do is teach defence. If you don't have defensive stoppers, you can teach good team defence. We spent a lot of time on that. We're trying to be a great half-court defensive team. We want to be an up-tempo offensive team. One of the goals is to get at least 10 transition baskets a game and not give up more than three. That doesn't always work out, but that's the goal. We call it pressure offence, where we're pushing it.

I tell them that even if you're not scoring in the fast break, you're still getting the ball up the floor quickly and you're leaving more time on the clock for you to run half-court. A lot of the times when teams just walk it up and, by the time they start their offence, it's down to 12 or 13 seconds and so you're desperate then. You break fast and you get it up there, then you've got 20 seconds to run your half-court. So that's part of it.

We want to be a fast breaking team. Defensively we want to be a great half-court team. We'll do a little bit of pressing and a little bit of trapping, but that's not our MO (Modus Operandi). Our MO is (being) a really good half-court team.

What worked for us really well against Bahrain was that we put in our matchup zone. That's kind of our secondary defence. We want to have that just as a mixer. When I came in here, I looked at our team and I said, 'What is the one thing we could be better at than anybody else in this (Asian) pool?' I mean, we weren't as big, as quick, and as athletic, but I felt like we had a few really good shooters. And so, I thought we could be the best three-point shooting team in this pool.

We had guys like Gurbaz (Sandhu) and Muin (Bek Hafeez) who were already really good three-point shooters. But we had some other guys too. At times we had five guys on the floor that could shoot threes. We have about seven guys that can make them - they may not shoot their own high percentage. I know as a coach that playing against teams like that is a nightmare. When everybody can shoot threes and you can't help as much and you have to close out. We shoot a lot of threes in practice. I mean, a lot.

We don't shoot a lot of mid-range. We shoot some, but I wanted us to be the best three-point shooting team in this pool. And you can't just only shoot threes, but in the games we've won, we've hit 17, we've hit 15, and we've hit 14. That doesn't just happen. We put up a lot of threes in practice. You've still got to play great defence.

You've got to rebound the basketball. We want to try to get some easy baskets because you can't depend on your half-court to do all your scoring. You've got to get a few transition baskets. That's kind of the system - being a great three-point shooting team. But we work hard at how you get those threes, not just shooting them. We work hard on driving and kicking and swinging it and all those kinds of things, so we can get open threes.

How optimistic are you about India's chances of winning the Asia Cup?

I've coached before (2012-15) and that was just a walk in the park to get there (to the Asian Cup). The last two times, especially this one, we really had to earn it. When they talk about eleven straight (qualifications), I almost say really two straight.

They've changed the whole format. Now you have to really work to get there. So when I hear eleven in a row, I'm really thinking more like, 'Well, two in a row.'

But I'm optimistic. If we get all of our players healthy and everybody back, I think we can do some damage. We have to make sure we get them all back healthy and for the training. If we have our full squad, I'm optimistic about how we can do it. We've already surprised a few people. I hope we have more surprises in us.

What are your preparatory plans for the Asia Cup?

We've got about three or four camps. Basically, there's going to be a camp starting this month, and we're going to take it all the way through to July with some breaks in there. My goal is to get at least two exposure trips. Maybe, one to Dubai, where we were before. And then, maybe, a bigger one. We're going to play some really tough teams. We're not sure where that's going to be, but we're going to really investigate and see if we can play some teams better than we are.

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ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ

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ನಂ. ಎ5/ಬಜೆಟ್/ಟೆಂಡರ್/YLP&MND/ಅ.ಕಾ/ವಿವ–40/2025–26. ದಿನಾಂಕ: 20–03–2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2025–26 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿಗೆ ಯಲ್ಲಾಪುರ ವಿಭಾಗ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಯಲ್ಲಾಪುರ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ ಹಾಗೂ ಮುಂಡಗೋಡ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ವಿವಿಧ ಲೆಕ್ಕಶೀರ್ಷಿಕೆಗಳಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೆಡುತೋಪು ರಚನೆ, ನೆಡುತೋಪು ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಇತ್ಯಾದಿ ಅನುಬಂಧ-I ರಲ್ಲಿ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ಅರಣ್ಯೀಕರಣ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳುವ ಬಗ್ಗೆ ಸಂಕ್ಷಿಪ್ತ ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಇ–ಟೆಂಡರ (ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮೂಲಕ ಮಾತ್ರ) (ಕೆಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ–1 ದ್ವಿ ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿ) ಕರೆಯಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ಮತ್ತು ಆರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್‌ಗಳನ್ನು ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ: 21–04–2025 ಸಾಯಂಕಾಲ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ ಆಗಿದ್ದು, ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿಗಳ ಕಚೇರಿ ಯಲ್ಲಾಪುರ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಲ್ಲಾಪುರ ರವರನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದು. (ದೂರವಾಣಿ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: 08419–261273).

ಸಹಿ/– ಸಹಾಯಕ ಅರಣ್ಯ ಸಂರಕ್ಷಣಾಧಿಕಾರಿ,
ಯಲ್ಲಾಪುರ ಉಪ ವಿಭಾಗ, ಯಲ್ಲಾಪುರ

DIPR/KWR/KSMCA/29/25-26 Dt.15.04.2025

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited
(CIN : U40109KA1999SGC025521)

No. CGM(Tech)/DGM(PROC &APCC)/EE-Proc/AEE-1/2025-26/100-118 Date: 15.04.2025

BRIEF SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Retender - 2nd Call)

(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

Karnataka Power Transmission Corporation Limited re-invites Bids on electronic mode for the following works in a **Combined Package** against following Enquiry Number:

Enquiry Number / Name of the work
KPTCL/2025-26/SS/WORK_INDENT 2217

Combined Package for,

Work-A) Replacement of 1x8MVA, 66/11kV Power **Transformer-1** by 1x20MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformer at **66/11 kV Attigulipura Sub-station** in Chamarajanagara Taluk and District.

Work-B) Replacement of 1x8MVA, 66/11kV Power **Transformer-2** by 1x20MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformer at **66/11 kV Attigulipura Sub-station** in Chamarajanagara Taluk and District.

Work-C) Replacement of 2x8MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformer by 2x20MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformer at **66/11kV Ramapura Sub-Station** in Hanur Taluk, Chamarajanagara District.

Work-D) Replacing 1x6.3MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformer by 1x20MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformer at **66/11kV Bommalapura Sub-station** in Gundlupete Taluk, Chamarajanagara District.

Work-E) Replacing 1x8MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformer by 1x20MVA, 66/11kV Power Transformer at **66/11kV Sathegala Sub-station** in Kollegala Taluk, Chamarajanagara District.

on Partial Turnkey Basis, including Supply of all Materials/Equipments(Excluding supply of 11kV Switchgear) and Erection (including dismantling & Civil Works) of all Materials/Equipments, Testing and Commissioning.

The bids will be received through KPP Portal only. The details regarding participation in the e-tendering process can be obtained by logging on to KPTCL website: **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink **"E Procurement KPTCL"** or **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **17.04.2025 @ 15:00hrs.** Last date & time for receipt of Bids is **03.05.2025 @ 15:00hrs. Any extension of Due date for Bid submission will be intimated in the Karnataka Public Procurement portal.** Any details required in this regard can also be had from the Office of the undersigned during Office hours.

All Corrigendum/Addendums shall be noticed by the bidders before the last date of submission of the Bids.

Sd/- Chief General Manager(Tech),
KPTCL, Corporate Office, 2nd Floor,
Kaveri Bhavan, Bengaluru - 560 009.

NORTH WESTERN KARNATAKA ROAD TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Dharwad Rural Division, Dharwad.

Notice Inviting E-Tender No: 02/2025
(Through E-Procurement)

Applications are invited through E-Procurement for Selection of Licences to the Stalls, at Various Bus Stations and Cleaning Contractor at Pay and Use Systems at Various Bus Stations that come under the Jurisdiction of Dharwad Division. Tender documents can be downloaded through E-Procurement Website: **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in till 05-05-2025 Time 17.00 Hours,** the Last Date for Submission of Online Application is **05-05-2025 upto 17.00 Hours.** and Tender Opening is on **07-05-2025 Time 11.00 Hrs.** The persons having DCS (Digital Signature Certificate) are eligible to participate in the Tender. For more Details Bidders may contact the above Office through Phone Mob: **7760996271 (Divisional Traffic Officer) and 7760129545 ATM.**

Sd/- Divisional Controller
NWKRTC Dharwad Division, Dharwad.

Notice Inviting Manual Tender No: 02/2025

Application are invited through Manual Tender Selection of Licences to the Stalls, Advertising Display through Hoardings and Glow Sign Boards at Various Bus Stands that comes under the Jurisdiction of Dharwad Division. Interested Bidders can take application Forms **at the Office of Divisional Controllers, Dharwad Division, Dharwad from 16-04-2025 at 11.00 AM to 06-05-2025 upto 16.00 Hours.** Manual Negotiation Tender Opening Date is on **07-05-2025 at 12.00 Hours.** For more Details Bidders may contact the above Office through Mob: **7760996271 (Divisional Traffic Officer) and 7760129545 (ATM).**

Sd/- Divisional Controller
NWKRTC Dharwad Division, Dharwad.

DIPR/Dharwad/40/Adverto/2025-26

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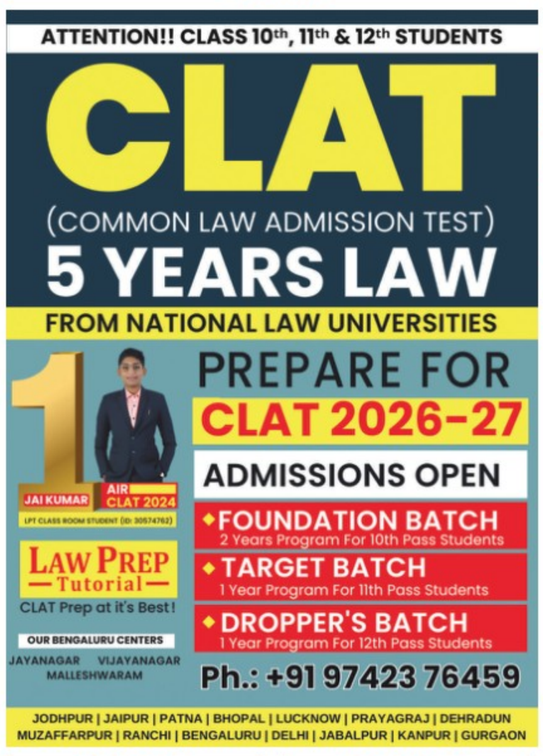
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PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, Hitherto Known As Shilpa Nanjundaiah W/O Harish Deshpande Residing At 130, Srimatha, Cqal Layout, Sahakarnagar, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560092, Have Changed My Name And Shall Hereafter Be Known As Shilpa Deshpande For All Future Purposes

I, MOHAMMED Gous Shamshuddin Gangavali, S/o Shamshuddin Gangavali, R/at No.92, 'C' Block, 2nd Cross, Shubash Nagar, Singasandra, Bengaluru- 560068, have changed my name to Mohammed Ghouse vide Affidavit dated 15.04.2025 sworn before Notary Meer Hassan, Bengaluru.

I, SURESH Babu Duggepogu, R/at No. 23, Varamuneshwara Swamy Temple Road, Muganna Compound, Srinivagilu, Bangalore-560047 have changed my minor son's name from Deepak Suresh Babu Duggepogu to Duggepogu Deepak vide Affidavit dated 04.04.2025 sworn before XXXVIII Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bengaluru.

PERSONAL
CHANGE OF NAME

I, Tapti Nutan Pattnaik W/O, Sri. Nutan Prasad N R/o No.617,4th B Main, Bhuvanagiri, Ombr Layout, Banaswadi, Bangalore North, Kalyannagar, Bangalore - 560043 have changed my name to Tapti Pattnaik.

I, NARENDRA Kumar dependents of Amit Kumar resident of Adarsh Colony, Gali No.10, Ambay International Public School, Palwal, Palwal Haryana-121102 have changed by name from Narendra Kumar to Narender Singh vide affidavit dated 18/03/2025 before G.R. Ravichandra Reddy Advocate & Notary Public Bengaluru.

I, SURESH Babu Duggepogu, R/at No. 23, Varamuneshwara Swamy Temple Road, Muganna Compound, Srinivagilu, Bangalore-560047 have changed my minor daughter's name from Deepthi Duggepogu to Duggepogu Deepthi vide Affidavit dated 04.04.2025 sworn before XXXVIII Addl. Chief Judicial Magistrate, Bengaluru.

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LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF THE 57 TH ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYO HALL AT BENGALURU (CCH 58)
O. S. No. 25191 of 2021
Hg. 03.06.2025

BETWEEN:
M/s. ICICI Bank Ltd.
Having its branch office at 4/10, Mythree Tower, Bommanahalli, Hosur Main Road, Bengaluru-560068
Represented by its Collection Manager Mr. Pramodh G.
...Plaintiff

And
Mr. Allwyn Abraham
...Defendant

Summons to Defendant Under Order 5 Rule 20 of CPC

Mr. Allwyn Abraham
S/o Abraham Joseph,
Aged about 38 years
R/a No. 306, 3rd Cross, 4th Main Road, Kanteerava Nagar, Nandini Layout, Bengaluru-560096

Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a civil suit for Recovery of a sum of Rs. 4,14,657.93/- (Rupees Four Lakhs Fourteen Thousand Six Hundred and Fifty Seven and Ninety Three Paisa Only) apart from future interest of 24% p.a., in O.S. No. 25191/2021 and same is pending adjudication in CCH 58, Before the 57th Addl. City Civil Court, Mayo Hall, Bengaluru.

You are hereby summoned to appear Before the 57th Addl. City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru, in person or by a pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above proceedings on the 03rd day of June 2025 at 11 a.m. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.

Given under my Hand and Seal of the court this 08th the day of April, 2025. day

By the Order of the Court
Deputy Registrar
City Civil Court
Mayo Hall

Anvaya Law,
Advocates and Consultants,
4th floor, Blue Cross Chambers
Infant Road, Bengaluru-560001

PERSONAL
ANNOUNCEMENTS

I, DEVI Uma Manivannan, D/o Nevalakona Manivannan, R/at No.A-104, Sena Vihar, Kammanahalli Main Road, Banaswadi, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560043, hereby state that both the names Devi Uma Manivannan and Uma Manivannan belongs to one and the same person i.e., me only vide Affidavit dated 14.04.2025 sworn before Notary Uday Kumar.K, Bangalore.

Veterinary hospital staff quarters razed for KSIC silk showroom and office

When there are not enough facilities, activists question why even existing land is being given away

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

Animal lovers in Bengaluru are up in arms as the Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services recently razed down the old staff quarters on Queen's Road opposite the super specialty veterinary hospital to make way for Karnataka Silk Industries Corporation Ltd's (KSIC) silk showroom.

In an order passed in 2023-end, the government had directed the department to transfer 1,700 sq ft land on Queen's Road to the KSIC to set up its godown, sales outlet, and head office building.

Later by mid-2024, animal activists found out about the order and have been protesting ever since. Now, with the razing of the building around three months ago, activists say it seems impossible to stop the proposed project.

The old staff quarters of the veterinary hospital on Queen's Road was razed recently. JAHNAVI T.R.

"They have already destroyed the staff space that was on Queen's Road, and it is ridiculous that a silk showroom is coming up there. It should not happen," said Priya Chetty Rajagopal, animal activist.

At a time when there are not enough facilities in the city for animals, activists question why even existing land is being given away. "Why is the department giving away this land without public consultation? There is a shortage of animal shelters in the city, and this space should have been used to address this. Instead, they are eying profits and setting up a silk showroom. It is such a shame," said Arun Prasad, animal activist and pet owner.

In 2024, animal activists had taken the legal route when two acres of land belonging to Chamarajapet Veterinary Hospital was transferred to the Waqf Board.

The High Court had then halted the transfer of the land and had directed the department to maintain status quo. However, in this case, activists feel that it is a lost cause as KSIC has already begun work.

The hospital in Queen's Road is Bengaluru's only 24/7 government veterinary hospital and is among the two super specialty hospitals in the city. "First, it was the transfer of veterinarians from Bengaluru to rural areas. Now, they are giving away what little is left for animals, just for some revenue," said another animal activist.

When asked for a response, officials of the department said the land had already been transferred to KSIC and the activities there will be decided by KSIC.

Enthused by response, KRRS plans to make farmer-to-consumer *santhes* a fortnightly feature

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

Enthused by the response of people of Bengaluru to its initiative of facilitating farmers to sell their produce directly to consumers, the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha (KRRS- Collective Leadership) has decided to hold such *santhes* (shandies) every fortnight.

The first fortnightly *santhe* will be held on April 26 and 27. To begin with, the fortnightly *santhes* will be held for the next six months at Munivenkatayya Memorial Open Air Theatre in Rajarajshwarinagar where an experimental santhe was held from April 12 to 14, christened *nera maaraatada mulaka namma horata* (our struggle through direct marketing) - our prices for our crops. The KRRS wants to start them at other areas too in future.

Farmers selling their produce at the three-day Raitha santhe at Munivenkatayya Memorial Open-Air Theatre in Bengaluru on February 12. K. MURALI KUMAR

"We were pleasantly surprised to see the response, as whatever produce had been brought by farmers was sold out within two days. The santhe saw a total sales of about ₹20 lakh, which was beyond our expectations as over 5,000 people visited the venue," said KRRS leader Chukki Nanjundaswamy.

She said there were instances where consumers, happy with the quality of produce, offered prices higher than those quoted. "About 70 farmers, who participated in the *santhe*, had brought vegetables, foodgrains, jaggery, and oil among others. We had requested them to bring a limited quantity of produce, fearing that the stock may not be sold as this was the first such *santhe*. But to our surprise, the entire stock got cleared," she said.

"A large number of consumers suggested that the KRRS should organise similar *santhes* in their areas as well as apartment complexes too. In fact, some of the young techies, who had rural background, offered to develop app to help farmers in such a marketing initiative," she said.

Jayachandra Sharma, chairman of KRRS' Committee on Natural Farming, Processing and Marketing, said the KRRS has decided to finetune the forthcoming santhes by providing orientation to farmers on various issues.

"Primarily, we want to encourage authentic natural farming. In this context, we want to allow only those farmers who agree to dedicate 10 guntas (one-fourth of an acre) of their cultivation area for natural farming to participate in the santhes," he noted.

"Apart from this, we want farmers to have good knowledge on cultivation practices and processing of their crops. We also want to give orientation on handling consumers. The last condition will be that the KRRS committee will fix the price level for their crops after assessment," Mr. Sharma said.

He said farmers got a good price here while consumers get quality and fresh produce at reasonable prices.

Citing various examples, he said a pappaya farmer was able to sell his produce at ₹20 a kg in the *santhe* as against the APMC rates of ₹6-8. The consumers were happy as they were able to get fresh produce at a cheaper rate than the market price of around ₹40 a kg.

It is mandatory for farmers to register themselves for participating in the fortnightly *santhe* so that the organisers can plan the quantum of produce to be brought. The farmers can call KRRS leaders on 9035454365 or 9036654365.

Chain snatching: Four from Nagpur held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The J.C. Nagar police arrested four persons from Nagpur, allegedly involved in multiple chain-snatching cases in the city and recovered 87 grams of gold valuables worth ₹6 lakh.

The prime accused, identified as Shahid, along with his associates and relatives, identified as Shabbir, Tanveer, and Ali Naki, all from Nagpur, were arrested. With the arrests, the police claimed to have cracked three chain snatching cases in Bengaluru and a suspected series of similar cases in Mysuru.

According to the police, Shahid is a habitual offender booked under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA), 1999, and was jailed for a year. After his release from prison this January, the accused formed a group with his relatives, purchased a second-hand bike and a car for the job, and came to Bengaluru.

Seed being sown to conserve native species of plants

K.C. Deepika
BENGALURU

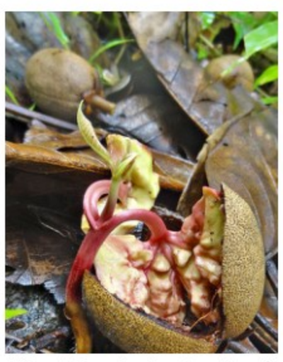
Sowing the seed to conserve native species of plants and help in land restoration efforts, a 'Seed Germination Database' is coming up to enable a variety of people to grow native plants.

Set to be launched on Wednesday by the Ecological Restoration Alliance-India, an informal network of individuals, organisations and groups working together to foster knowledge and practice of ecological restoration of natural ecosystems in India, the database will be free to access.

According to the alliance, the database has over 1,000 germination techniques listed in total, and about 465 native plant species can be germinated using this database. It includes contributions from over 23 individuals across 11 institutions.

Arjun Singh, senior project manager, Ecological Restoration Alliance-India, told *The Hindu* that the project began in September, 2023. "We have members working across the country, and once more people start contributing, we will have a wider database," he added.

Asked how the database will be vetted, he said, "The way we are operating is on a trust-based approach. Most people are contributing from a lived experience of germination. So it's a feedback-based database."


A 'Seed Germination Database' will be launched by the Ecological Restoration Alliance-India. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The alliance aims to tackle land degradation and help restoration efforts through the database. According to the alliance, land degradation is a serious problem that is afflicting countries across the globe, and India has pledged to restore 26 million hectares of degraded land under the Bonn Challenge (a global goal to bring 150 million hectares of degraded and deforested landscapes into restoration by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030).

"Native plants play an important role in ecological restoration projects. These are plants that have established complex relationships with mammals, birds, insects, and fungi, found in that area. Over and above this, they have learnt to cope with the soil conditions and even vagaries of the climatic conditions prevalent in the area, and once established, do not need support in terms of watering, fertilisers or any other human intervention. They are our best bet towards creating climate-resilient natural ecosystems and landscapes," said the alliance, adding that a systematic reintroduction can help restore and bring the ecosystem back in balance.

"While plants produce thousands of seeds, the chance of a single seed becoming a healthy mature plant would be 1 in a 100, as they struggle to find the right climatic conditions and ecological niches to prosper. This works well for established ecosystems, but when restoring degraded landscapes, each seed counts," the alliance further explained.

Mr. Singh said the database would be the first step towards enhancing the availability of native plants, as such data is not openly available at present. "Our target audience is restoration practitioners, landscape architects, home gardeners, and enthusiasts," he added.

Guru Vandana on April 21

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Vijaya College will celebrate Guru Vandana and Alumni Meet 2025, marking 80 years of service to the community.

The commemorative event will take place on April 21, at 3 p.m, at the Vijaya College campus on R.V. Road, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru.

The celebration aims to honour the legacy and the influence of the institution on generations of students.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites Tenders for the following works:

E-Tender Notice No. UBLSE-01-2025-26 Dated: 09-04-2025

Item of Work	Approx. Value
AC Duct Cleaning of LHB AC Coaches at Carriage Repair Workshop, Hubballi.	Rs. 26,28,230/-

Last date for submission of E-bid is: **upto 17:30 hrs. on 30-04-2025**

E-Tender Notice No. UBLSE-02-2025-26 Dated: 11-04-2025

Item of Work	Approx. Value
Repair of Battery-Operated Road cum Rail Vehicle used for Shunting coaches-Shunter No.04 at Carriage Repair Workshop, Hubballi.	Rs. 34,04,772/-

Last date for submission of E-bid is: **upto 16:30 hrs. on 02-05-2025**

E-Tender Notice No. UBLSE-03-2025-26 Dated: 11-04-2025

Item of Work	Approx. Value
Repair of Battery-Operated Road cum Rail Vehicle used for Shunting coaches-Shunter No.05 at Carriage Repair Workshop, Hubballi.	Rs. 27,90,700/-

Last date for submission of E-bid is: **upto 16:00 hrs. on 02-05-2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Divisional Electrical Engineer Carriage Repair Workshop, Hubballi

PUB/34/AAF/PRB/SWR/2025-26

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

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3. As of 2025, which bowler holds the record for the most wickets in international cricket?

*T&C apply.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

My client's have agreed to purchase Commercial immovable property bearing **BBMP New Municipal No.3/1,** (a portion of old property No.3), situated at **Bannerghatta Road, Lakkasandra,** Adugodi, Bangalore 560 030, having **P.I.D No. 63-30-3/1**, & New EPID No.3213307489, coming under BBMP Lakkasandra Ward No.146 (old BBMP Ward No.63), consists of Land and RCC Building thereon as described below in the schedule from, Sri. R. MAHESH, Any person/s, who has got any valid claim, title, demand or interest over the said property or any objections to the purchase of the said property by my clients, may file his/her objections in writing, along with copies of the supporting documents, with the undersigned within **(7) Seven Days** from this day. Failing which it will be deemed that no other person/s has got any claim, demand, share, interest or title in the said property, by way of previous sale or agreement to sell or otherwise or objections to the purchase of the said property by my clients and my clients will complete the sale, as if, there is no such claim/s.

SCHEDULE-B-PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the Commercial immovable property bearing **BBMP New Municipal No.3/1,** (a portion of old property No.3), situated at **Bannerghatta Road, Lakkasandra,** Adugodi, Bangalore 560 030, having **P.I.D No. 63-30-3/1**, & New EPID No.3213307489, coming under BBMP Lakkasandra Ward No.146 (old BBMP Ward No.63), consists of Land and RCC Building, constructed Second Floor measuring 1450 square feet, Third Floor measuring 1450 square feet and Fourth Floor 300 square feet and open terrace area, in the building known as "MEHUL TOWERS" constructed on the Schedule A Property, with mosaic flooring and open car parking area and having all the amenities such as electricity connections & etc., and along with the 50% undivided share, interest, title, right and claim in the Land hereby conveyed is **1200 Square feet,** out of total land 2400 square feet in the schedule-A-property, along with common areas such as staircase, common passage, common lobby, water tank/s, including sump & etc., and bounded on:

East by : Property No.18, belonging to Shamanna, West by : **Bannerghatta Road**, North by : Property No.2 and South by : Property No.4, belonging to Palani Achar.

Mr. DEEPAK T JAIN, Advocate,
Fourth Floor, Sakalajee Market, Avenue Road, Bengaluru-560 002. Mobile No. 9844486969.
Mobile No. 9341270475
Date: 15-04-2025 Place: Bengaluru

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E-Auction programme for the month of MAY & JUNE - 2025

PUB0395

MAY e-Auction -2025

DATE	DIVISIONS/DEPOTS
01.05.25	SECUNDERABAD
02.05.25	TIRUPATI
05.05.25	NANDED
06.05.25	VIJAYAWADA
07.05.25	LALLAGUDA
08.05.25	GUNTUR
09.05.25	GUNTAKAL
12.05.25	RAYANAPADU
13.05.25	HYDERABAD
14.05.25	SECUNDERABAD
15.05.25	TIRUPATI
16.05.25	NANDED
19.05.25	VIJAYAWADA
20.05.25	LALLAGUDA
21.05.25	GUNTUR
22.05.25	GUNTAKAL
23.05.25	HYDERABAD
26.05.25	RAYANAPADU
27.05.25	SECUNDERABAD
28.05.25	TIRUPATI
29.05.25	NANDED
30.05.25	VIJAYAWADA

JUNE e -Auction 2025

DATE	DIVISIONS/DEPOTS
02.06.25	LALLAGUDA
03.06.25	GUNTUR
04.06.25	GUNTAKAL
05.06.25	RAYANAPADU
06.06.25	HYDERABAD
09.06.25	SECUNDERABAD
10.06.25	TIRUPATI
11.06.25	NANDED
12.06.25	VIJAYAWADA
13.06.25	LALLAGUDA
16.06.25	GUNTUR
17.06.25	GUNTAKAL
18.06.25	RAYANAPADU
19.06.25	HYDERABAD
20.06.25	SECUNDERABAD
23.06.25	TIRUPATI
24.06.25	NANDED
25.06.25	VIJAYAWADA
26.06.25	LALLAGUDA
27.06.25	GUNTUR
30.06.25	GUNTAKAL

Principal Chief materials Manager
A0495 **Secunderabad**

For further tender conditions / details and for downloading the tender documents, Please visit website at https://www.ireps.gov.in or www.scr.indianrailways.gov.in

Case against rehab centre staff, management

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Nelamangala Rural police have registered a *suo motu* case against the management of a rehabilitation centre after a video of a staff allegedly torturing a resident, after he refused to comply with their orders, went viral on social media.

Taking cognisance of the incident, two cases have been registered against the staff and the management of Sai Freedom Foundation. While one pertains to the assault on the resident, another case is against the owner of the centre using a sword to cut his birthday cake, C.K. Baba, SP, Bengaluru Rural district said. The incidents reportedly occurred a few days ago and the resident has been admitted to hospital.

The residents and family members alleged that the staff beat them brutally in the garb of rehabilitation if they did not agree to do menial jobs.

The police said that they were verifying the allegations to ascertain if the centre, recognised by the State government, had violated norms.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT CENTRE (HSFC),
Construction & Maintenance Group (CMG), Antariksh Bhavan,
Bengaluru - 560 094, Ph:080-22172614/2613

E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, Online Item rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for the following works.

Sl. No.	Title of work and NIT no.	Estimated Cost put to tender	Period of Completion	Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	Due date & time of submission	Date of tender opening	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs.
01	Providing external cabling works from Security Building to proposed kiosk at HSFC, Devanahalli, Bengaluru. **HSFC/CMG/MM/E/145/2025-26, Dt: 15.04.2025**	Rs. 7.55 Lakhs	02 Months	From 16.04.2025 (11.00 hrs) to 23.04.2025 (23.30 hrs)	25.04.2025 up to 11.00 hrs	25.04.2025 at 11.30 hrs	15,100/-

Tender documents can be downloaded from website **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** by registering with tender wizard and paying tender processing fee. The procedure for vender registration is displayed in the above website.

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) from website **www.isro.gov.in** for further details and Purchase of tender documents visit **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/-Head CMD, CMG, HSFC

Underwater heavyweight mantis shrimp also packs a natural energy shield

As the dactyl club of a mantis shrimp strikes its prey, it displaces the surrounding water and forms small low-pressure zones where the water's density drops so much that it turns into vapour; when the resulting void collapses, it releases high-frequency shockwaves — yet the animal remains unharmed. How?

Sanjukta Mondal

Research into the dactyl club can be applied to materials that can protect personnel from shockwaves and sound. CREMBOC (CC BY-SA)

THE GIST

The mantis shrimp uses a hammer-shaped appendage to strike its prey at a blistering 23 m/s, smashing into the creature's body like a bullet fired from a gun at point-blank range

Researchers found a specialised microstructure in the shrimp's club. This structure was capable of phononic shielding — allowing it to blunt the flow of acoustic waves and thus weaken recoil

For a long time, scientists believed that materials that could guide the flow of energy could only be created in the lab. These are called metamaterials. The new finding stands to change this. Nature always had metamaterials

The mantis shrimp is a colourful, 10-cm-long resident of the ocean whose appearance belies its reputation as one of the most fearsome predators on the planet.

These unassuming crustaceans use a hammer-shaped appendage called the dactyl club to strike their prey at a blistering 23 m/s (about 50 times faster than the blink of an eye), smashing into the poor creature's body like a bullet from a gun fired point-blank. The strike releases enough energy to send small shockwaves through the surrounding water.

But the thing about guns is that every bullet fired has a recoil. It's Newton's third law of motion. If a firearm is not securely braced against the body to absorb it, the sudden backward motion can lead to severe injuries.

Yet despite striking prey hard enough to produce shockwaves, the mantis shrimp remains unharmed. How is this possible?

Lasers reveal a shield

A team of researchers from the US and France found the answer in a specialised microstructure in the mantis shrimp's club. They found that this structure was capable of phononic shielding – a unique ability that allows it to blunt the flow of acoustic waves and thus weaken the recoil the mantis shrimp has.Their findings were reported in February in *Science*.

The team fired laser pulses at the microstructure in a rapid sequence that illuminated its response at less than one-billionth of a second at a time. They followed this up with numerical simulations.

"People have looked at the material structure under a microscope but haven't explored the dynamic mechanical behaviour, especially how it responds to wave propagation," Maroun Abi Ghanem, the study's coauthor and a researcher at the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique, France, said.

"We looked into this behaviour by sending waves through the structure and analysed how they interacted with the material."

Triggering implosions

The dactyl club of a mantis shrimp stores its energy in spring-like elastic structures held together by latch-like tendons. When the latch is released, the club is released. As it moves to deliver its punch, it displaces the surrounding water and forms small low-pressure zones. Inside these zones, the water's density drops so much that it turns into vapour, leaving behind a bubble.

When these bubbles collapse due to the pressure of the surrounding water, they release a considerable amount of heat and shockwaves of very high frequencies, up to hundreds of megahertz.

Thus, each dactyl-club punch delivers two blows: one from its own punch and the other from the collapsing bubbles, and together they are capable of breaking the tough shells of clams, mussels, and other crustaceans.

The dactyl club has a hierarchical design – a fine-tuned blend of mineral and organic materials arranged in three layers. The outermost impact surface is made of a thin but hard inorganic material called hydroxyapatite, which distributes the recoil and prevents it from accumulating at one point. Beneath it, the impact layer and the periodic region contain biopolymer fibres arranged in a pattern that can withstand repeated high-intensity impact without incurring significant damage.

Previous studies have explored the club's material structure and impact resistance. The new study went a step further to check whether the periodic architecture of the materials enhances their mechanical performance.

It does. The team found that the internal arrangement of the microstructure serves as a phononic bandgap: a structure that prevents energy waves of certain frequencies from passing through, or at least significantly attenuates them, Horacio Espinosa, a study coauthor and professor of mechanical and biomedical engineering at Northwestern University in Illinois, the US, said.

> We are working on biomimetic structures inspired by the architecture of the mantis shrimp with a focus on wave trapping

'An incredible example'

To mimic the ultrafast club strike in the laboratory, the team used a pair of pulsed lasers that emit very short flashes of light: one to generate energy waves on the material surface and the other to detect them.When the laser was directed onto a material, it absorbed the light and induced thermoelastic expansion, i.e., heating and expanding the material. This generated a stress wave on the surface, like a miniature earthquake. The team tracked the wave's movement through the shrimp's club to understand energy transfer in the material.

The readings helped researchers draw dispersion diagrams – plots that revealed the bandgaps, or specific frequency ranges, where waves couldn't pass through or were considerably weakened. The appearance of this pattern in the data indicated to the team that the mantis shrimp used phononic shielding to protect itself from the recoil.

"What's even more fascinating is that our findings suggest the club's structure not only resists these intense forces but may also be fine-tuned to control how shock waves propagate through it," Espinosa said. "This dual role of structural robustness and wave manipulation is an incredible example of nature optimising materials at multiple levels."

Here all along

For a long time, scientists believed that materials that could guide the flow of energy in particular ways could only be created in the lab, not in the wild. Such materials are called metamaterials: they have specially tailored geometries to achieve these effects. The new finding about the mantis shrimp stands to change this belief. Nature always had metamaterials. The study's findings can also be applied to develop synthetic sound-filtering materials for use in protective gear, such as earmuffs for soldiers. They could also inspire new approaches to reducing blast-related injuries in the army and sports, the researchers said in a statement.

"We are working on biomimetic structures inspired by the architecture of the mantis shrimp with a focus on wave trapping," Abi Ghanem said. "We are interested in understanding how the structures trap waves, exploring what we can do with this trapped energy, and if it is possible to convert the trapped energy into another form."

(Sanjukta Mondal is a chemist-turned-science-writer with experience in writing popular science articles and scripts for STEM YouTube channels. sanjuktamondal.sm@gmail.com)

BIG SHOT

A great cormorant in the Camargue marshes near Arles, France, on February 27. Hunting with lead shells has been banned in the French wetlands since 2006, yet a study published on April 15 in *Conservation Science and Practice* showed that lead poisoning of waterbirds has not decreased. AFP

QUESTION CORNER

Reducing the cost of walking

The Hindu Bureau

Q: Why do our arms move to and fro when we walk?

A: To keep our torso stable and conserve energy, we swing our arms backwards and forwards while walking. When you swing, say, your right leg forward to take a step, you provide a rotational moment about the central vertical axis of your torso. By the principle of conservation of angular momentum, an opposite reactionary moment is felt by your torso.

By swinging your right arm backwards and your left arm forwards, you counterbalance this moment. Just try running without swinging your arms at all.

Or worse still, try running while swinging your arms in the opposite direction to normal: that is, swing your left arm forward when you swing your left leg forward, and so on. You will find that your torso rotates from side to side in an uncomfortable and unnatural manner.

Serge Gracovetsky hypothesised in the 1980s that the spine, rather than the legs, is the primary source of power for gait, and this is now accepted by most, if not all, researchers in this field.

Serge Gracovetsky hypothesised in the 1980s that the spine, rather than the legs, is the primary source of power for gait. VOLKAN OLMEZ/UNSPLASH

The mechanism works because the spine is curved. Any attempt to straighten such a structure will result in a twisting action. The lumbar muscles acting on the lumbar spine cause such a twist and provide the main impetus for placing one foot in front of the other.

Swinging one's arms while walking assists in this twisting motion, increases efficiency, and reduces the physiological cost of walking.

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to
science@thehindu.co.in
with the subject 'Daily page'

Track defect affects services on Green Line of Namma Metro

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Normal services were resumed at 4.05 p.m. after a disruption of over 30 minutes. FILE PHOTO

A minor track defect on the Green Line of Namma Metro near Mahalakshmi station disrupted services for over 30 minutes on Tuesday afternoon.

According to the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited, the issue was identified at 3.28 p.m., prompting emergency repair work that continued until 4.05 p.m.

In a statement, BMRCL said services between 3.28 p.m. and 4.05 p.m. were temporarily affected due to a "minor defect in the track" and that immediate action was taken to ensure passenger safety.

"The repair work was carried out speedily to ensure the utmost safety of passengers travelling on the Green Line, and the effect on passengers was minimal. Normal services have been restored since 4.05 pm on Tuesday," the statement read.

Metro officials expressed regret over the inconvenience caused to passengers.

Protest against axing of trees

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Members of the Gandhadagudi Foundation, Karnataka, held a demonstration near the office of Superintendent of Mysuru district police in the city on Tuesday against the axing of about 40 fully-grown trees.

The protestors also submitted a memorandum to Deputy Commissioner.

APPOINTMENT

KHAJA BANDANAWAZ UNIVERSITY
SAYYID AKBAR HUSAYNI (ICSE & ISC) SCHOOL
SAHS Campus, Sangtrashwadi, Kalaburagi-585-104.

Primary Section Teachers:
1. Social Studies , 2. Hindi, 3. Computers , 4. Music , 5. English
Eligibility Criteria
• Minimum Qualification: UG with D.Ed. / B.Ed
• Minimum experience: Fresher to 5 years of experience.

Middle & Higher Section Teachers:
1. Chemistry, 2. History, 3. Geography, 4. English. 5. Hindi, 6. Physics.

Eligibility Criteria (Middle Section)
• Minimum Qualification: UG with B.Ed.
• Minimum experience: 5 to 10 years of experience.

Eligibility Criteria (Higher Section)
• Minimum Qualification: PG with B.Ed.
• Minimum experience: 10 years of experience

• Teachers who have experience in ICSE/ISC schools will be preferred.
• Well furnished accommodation at nominal cost will be made available to outstation candidates.
• Salaries are attractive with all Emoluments and Benefits.

LAST DATE TO APPLY IS: 01.05.2025

Interested candidates are required to submit complete Bio-data, Documents & Experience certificates mentioning subject with section to the given address.
recruitments@kbn.university
Sd/-
Registrar

March seeking better mobile network

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Residents of Ryave and Varamballi villages in Hosanagara taluk of Shivamogga will take out a 10-km march from Varamballi to Hosanagara on Thursday, urging the administration to resolve the mobile network issues in the villages.

The villagers have planned a march up to Lok Sabha member B.Y. Raghavendra's residence in Shivamogga from April 28.

Grand Flea Market
Presents
ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ಸವ
Bengaluru Utsava
(Art, Craft, Handlooms & Lifestyle Exhibition)
Date: 4th April to 20th April 2025
Timing: 10:30 AM - 7:00 PM
Venue:
Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath
(7 Galleries and Lawn Area)
Near Shivananda Circle, Kumara Krupa Road
Bengaluru - 560 001.
Contact: 6364685716 / 9036658774
17 Days Exhibition Entry Free
70+ Shopping Stalls | 50+ Craftsman | Entry Free

Making Road & Rail Travel Safe For the People of Gubbi Region

Our government is making unprecedented investments on thousands of infrastructure projects, including railways.
- Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

Inauguration of
Road Under Bridge
in Lieu of LC 62 at D-Rampura Gate, Gubbi
and
Laying of Foundation Stone for
2 Road Under Bridges
in Lieu of LC 50 at Billepalya Gate,
LC 60 at Bandihalli Road Gate, Gubbi

Benefits
• Ensures uninterrupted flow of road traffic across the railway line
• Fulfills a long-pending demand of the people of Gubbi
• Eliminates delays at level crossings, saving time and fuel
• Improves connectivity, boosting local trade and daily commute
• Enhances safety for both road users and train operations
• Contributes to overall regional development and public convenience

By
V. SOMANNA
Union Minister of State for Railways and Jal Shakti

16th April, 2025 08:00 AM
Bandihalli Gate, Gubbi
All are cordially invited

South Western Railway
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Sri Siddaramaiah
Hon'ble Chief Minister

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA

Resumption of Bengaluru - Bidar Flight Services
and
Inauguration and Stone laying Ceremony of various Infrastructure Development Schemes / Works, Worth Rs. 2025 Crore at Bidar District

Sri D.K. Shivakumar
Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister

Sports Complex

Praja Soudha

Hon'ble Ministers Sri Eshwar B Khandre, Sri Rahim khan and Hon'ble MP Sri Sagar Eshwar Khandre conducting progress review meeting.

Honnikeri Eco Tourism

150 Bed well equipped Hospital

All are Cordially Invited

Venue: Nehru Stadium, Bidar
Date: 16-04-2025, Wednesday at 4.00 pm

Bhalki: Handing over of 400 houses

220 Kv Substation

BRIMS Super Speciality Cardiac Unit

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The increase in India's exports in the month of March

0.7 In per cent. India's exports grew by 0.7% to $41.97 billion in March, while the trade deficit stood at $21.54 billion in the same month. Imports increased by 11.3% year-on-year to $63.51 billion in March. The country's overall exports increased by 5.5% to $820.93 billion. PTI

Child migrants who died while crossing the Mediterranean

3,500 Some 3,500 migrant children have died or gone missing in the past decade trying to cross the Mediterranean for Italy, UNICEF estimated. The UN agency said that the true number of dead or missing children was "likely much higher". AFP

The dip in India's gems and jewellery exports in FY25

11.72 In per cent. India's overall gems and jewellery exports declined by 11.72% to $28.5 billion (around ₹2.41 lakh crore) in 2024-25 compared to previous financial year due to continued geopolitical tensions, according to the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council. PTI

Number of persons who availed the Kargil Courier Service

3,192 The Kargil Courier Service was started on February 8 to facilitate ferrying of stranded passengers between the two Union Territories after the closure of the 434-kilometre Srinagar-Leh National Highway due to snowfall in Zojila. PTI

Number of judges per million people in India, as per new report

15 There are only 15 judges per million people in the country, a far cry from the Law Commission's recommendation of 50 judges per million population, a 2025 report on India's judicial system released on Tuesday said. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Are births, deaths being properly registered?

What does the Registration of Birth and Death Act, 1969 mandate? What does the latest circular from the Registrar General of India state? Do private hospitals have the authority to register births and deaths on their own? When was the last Vital Statistics Report for India published?

EXPLAINER

Vijaita Singh

The story so far:

On March 17, the office of the Registrar General of India (RGI) cautioned private and government hospitals to report incidents of births and deaths within 21 days, *The Hindu* reported. This circular by the Vital Statistics division of the RGI, which works under the Union Home Ministry (MHA), was issued after it was found that many medical institutions were flouting the law.

What did the March 17 circular say?

The circular stated that around 10% of births and deaths are not getting registered in the country. It said that while 90% of birth or death events are getting registered and significant progress has been made towards the goal of universal registration, "the target of 100% registration" is yet to be achieved. According to an RGI report, the level of registration of births and deaths in the country in 2011 was 82.4% and 66.4% respectively. According to the Registration of Birth and Death Act, 1969, which was amended in 2023, registration of all births and deaths is mandatory. As per Section 23(2) of the RBD Act, "negligence by the registrar in registering any birth or death" is punishable with a fine. The fine was enhanced to upto ₹1,000 from ₹50 in the amended Act.

Who can register such events?

Under the Civil Registration System (CRS), controlled by the RGI, government hospitals have been entrusted with the responsibility of functioning as registrar. Private hospitals are supposed to report the events in their jurisdiction to the registrar so that certificates can be issued to the family.

The RBD Act empowers the RGI to take steps to coordinate and unify the activities of Chief Registrars who are appointed by State governments. The registration is performed by different departments in States. While in some States and Union Territories such as Assam, Chandigarh, Haryana, Lakshadweep, Meghalaya, Odisha, Punjab, Sikkim and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, the Health department is involved in all levels of registration, in other States like Kerala the registration is done by the panchayat department, while in Bihar the directorate of economics and statistics does it. According to the 2023 amendment to the RBD Act, the RGI shall maintain a database at the national level and it is obligatory that Chief Registrars and Registrars share the information with the Centre. According to the 2023 Act, which became effective October 1, 2023 all births and deaths in the country are to be digitally registered through Centre's portal – the Civil Registration System.

Proper database: A special camp for changing Aadhaar card details, and getting birth and death certificates, conducted by the Madurai Corporation in 2021. FILE PHOTO

Why through a centralised portal?

Effective October 1, 2023, digital birth certificates became the single and only document to prove the date of birth for various services such as admission to educational institutions, government jobs, marriage registration among others. The data will be used to update the National Population Register (NPR), ration cards, property registration and electoral rolls. The NPR, first collected in 2010 and updated in 2015 through door-to-door enumeration already has a database of 119 crore residents. NPR is the first step to the creation of the National Register of Citizens, per the Citizenship Act, 1955. The updation of NPR is currently on hold as it is to be done simultaneously with the first phase of the next Census, which has been indefinitely delayed.

What were other concerns of RGI?

The RGI said that it has been observed that some hospitals instead of registering the events wait for the relative of the baby or the deceased to approach them and only then, do they begin the process of registration. Instances have also been reported that some private hospitals don't report birth and death events to the concerned registrar and advise the relatives to report it himself. The RGI said that some registrars do not take adequate measures for making the registration process citizen friendly, stressing that birth and death certificates need to be issued within seven days.

What about the Vital Statistics of India report?

The report which depicts data regarding infant mortality, still-birth and deaths at the national level has not been published since 2020. Such data is used by the government in socio-economic planning, to evaluate the effectiveness of various social sector programs and also serves as the cornerstone of the public health system. The report is a compilation of all the vital statistics reports of State governments. States and UTs such as Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Delhi, Chandigarh, Mizoram, Goa, and Arunachal Pradesh have published their reports till 2022. The last published Vital Statistics Report for Kerala was in 2021 and Mizoram is the only State to have published the report in 2023.

The 2020 report published by the RGI said that the number of registered births has decreased from 2.48 crore in 2019 to 2.42 crore in 2020 – a decrease of about 2.4%. In the case of registered births, there has been a fall in the year 2020, in almost all States except Bihar, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Sikkim, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Jammu and Kashmir, and Ladakh compared to 2019. The number of registered deaths increased from 76.4 lakh in 2019 to 81.2 lakh in 2020.

THE GIST

- The office of the Registrar General of India (RGI) cautioned private and government hospitals to report incidents of birth and death within 21 days.
- Effective October 1, 2023, digital birth certificates became the single and only document to prove the date of birth for various services such as admission to educational institutions, government jobs, marriage registration among others.
- Under the Civil Registration System (CRS), controlled by the RGI, government hospitals have been entrusted with the responsibility of functioning as registrar.

Why are ASHA workers protesting in Kerala?

What is the payment structure of Accredited Social Health Activists in Kerala? Does it meet minimum wage?

C. Maya

The story so far:

For over two months now, a section of Kerala's 26,125-strong community of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHAs) have been on a day-night agitation on the streets demanding better remuneration and retirement benefits. While the agitation gained much attention and was also raised in Parliament, the issues raised by the ASHAs remain unresolved.

Why are they protesting?

ASHAs in Kerala are given a monthly honorarium of ₹7,000 and a fixed incentive of ₹3,000. Depending on the area where they work (for example, the tribal belt), they also get additional incentives. The payment of the entire honorarium and incentives are dependent on them fulfilling certain work-related criteria. The honorarium is paid by the State while the incentives are paid by the Centre and State at a 60-40 ratio. The State government claims that Kerala pays one of the highest honorarium to ASHAs, whereas the incentives given to ASHAs by the Union government for various services has remained the same from the inception of the scheme. Kerala Health Minister Veena George's statement that almost all ASHAs in the State are drawing anywhere from ₹10,000- ₹13,000 a month was refuted by the ASHAs who pointed out that they received much less in reality because of the criteria linked to honorariums.

What are the long term demands?

In Kerala, which has one of the highest minimum wage structures, and where daily wages for various jobs range anywhere from ₹700-₹1,200, ASHAs earn less than ₹250 daily. Though their immediate demands were the release of pending amounts due to them, they also demanded that the criteria linked to the honorarium be removed. Their main demand is to hike the honorarium to ₹21,000 a month so that they receive at least minimum wage (₹700 daily). They also sought a lump sum of ₹5 lakh on retirement. The ASHA scheme, when conceived in 2005, envisaged ASHAs as health volunteers rather than as a regular workforce. Hence they receive no fixed salary, no pension or other social security benefits. ASHAs point out that they would forever remain on the fringes unless they were made into a regular workforce.

What is the State saying?

The State Government has all along maintained that ASHAs come under the Union government and that it was entirely up to the Centre to change the fate of ASHAs by making fundamental changes in the scheme such as revising the incentive pattern and changing their employment status from non-paid "health volunteers" to a regular workforce. The State has also called out the Centre for refusing to give the cash grant it owed to the State National Health Mission (NHM) for the year 2023-24 – ₹636 crore – which has precipitated the current crisis and totally derailed the functioning of the NHM. Though the Government issued orders de-linking the conditions which were attached to the honorarium payment, it has refused to relent to the ASHAs' demand for a hike in honorarium or retirement benefits, citing the State's precarious finances.

Moreover, the State government is peeved that the Kerala ASHA Health Workers' Association (KAHWA) which is leading the agitation is doing so in front of the Secretariat and not in front of the Raj Bhavan. It has tried to discredit the agitation, accusing KAHWA of leading an "anti-government" movement.

What is the current position?

The Union Health Minister has declared in the Rajya Sabha that the incentives for ASHAs would be revised, yet no timeframe has been fixed for the same.

During the last round of negotiations, the State Government put forth a suggestion that a committee be set up to study the issues of ASHAs, including the honorarium hike. KAHWA suggested that in the interim, ASHAs be given a hike of at least ₹3,000 – an increase of ₹100 per day – which was rejected by the State.

THE GIST

- ASHAs in Kerala are given a monthly honorarium of ₹7,000 and a fixed incentive of ₹3,000. Depending on the area where they work (for example, the tribal belt), they also get additional incentives.
- In Kerala, which has one of the highest minimum wage structures, and where daily wages for various jobs range anywhere from ₹700-₹1,200, ASHAs earn less than ₹250 daily.
- The Union Health Minister has declared in the Rajya Sabha that the incentives for ASHAs would be revised, yet no timeframe has been fixed for the same.

Lorry operators to continue strike as talks with Chief Minister fail

Nearly six lakh lorries were halted across Karnataka, threatening to impact the supply chain of essential commodities

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Despite a high-level meeting with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah late on Tuesday evening, the Federation of Karnataka State Lorry Owners' and Agents' Association (KSLOAA) refused to call off its indefinite strike, which began earlier in the day.

Nearly six lakh lorries were halted across the State, bringing goods transportation to a halt and threatening to impact the supply chain of essential commodities if the deadlock continues. The lorry owners' association is protesting against the steep hike in diesel prices, increased toll rates, and fitness certificate (FC) fees for older vehicles.

The first meeting between Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy and the representatives of the striking lorry owners' association failed to yield a breakthrough as Mr. Reddy sought three months to address the issues raised by the association.

"I have promised that I will get a detailed report on the 18 RTO checkposts operating in the State and take action within three months. However, regarding the toll and diesel price hike, the Chief Minister has to take a call," said Mr. Reddy after meeting.

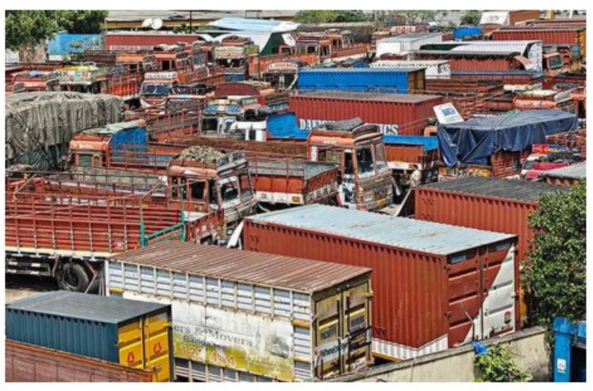
Later, the association members met Mr. Siddaramaiah. The meeting also included senior officials. However, it too ended without resolution.

"The Chief Minister appealed to call off the strike, but did not fulfil our demands. Our sector is already burdened. We are not just asking for relief from diesel price hikes, but also the rising toll fees and steep FC charges for older lorries," said G.R. Shanmugappa, president of KSLOAA.

In a statement issued on Tuesday night, the Chief Minister's Office acknowledged the concerns raised by the lorry owners but maintained that the diesel price hike was necessary. "A diesel cess was increased by ₹2 in this year's State Budget. However, even with this hike, diesel prices in Karnataka are still lower than those in neighbouring States," the statement said.

The Chief Minister noted that the State government is committed to public welfare and capital infrastructure. "The government is spending ₹14,000 crore every year on road improvement and ₹83,000 crore has been earmarked for capital expenditure this year alone," the statement read.

Mr. Siddaramaiah promised to review the restrictions on entry of lorries into city limits during peak hours among consider other demands. He said another meeting would be convened soon.



The lorry owners' association is protesting against the steep hike in diesel prices, increased toll rates, and fitness certificate fees for older vehicles. FILE PHOTO

List of demands by truck owners' association

- Reduction in diesel prices
- Rollback of ₹2 diesel cess hike
- Reduction in toll rates
- Rollback of increased fitness certificate (FC) fees
- Removal or streamlining of 18 RTO checkposts
- Review of restrictions on truck movement in cities

Supply chain feels the ripple effect on day one

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

Many truckers and association members say that unless the government takes immediate action, they would continue the strike

The lorry operators strike began on Monday around midnight, and over six lakh lorries have been off the roads since then in the State. Though it is only the first day of the strike, significant disruptions were reported across Karnataka. While essential services like milk supply have been exempted, lorries carrying vegetables, LPG cylinders, construction materials, and industrial goods stayed off the roads.

Association members said no fresh goods were loaded, and those already en route were unloaded.

"Over 4,000 daily loads from Karnataka to Tamil Nadu have stopped. Chennai, which heavily depends on vegetables from regions like Kolar, has started to feel the pinch," said Rudrappa K., a trucker from Bengaluru.

Traders in Bengaluru have begun to monitor the situation closely. "So far, there is no major impact in K.R. Market. But if the strike continues beyond Wednesday night, there could be serious issues," said Prakasha H., a vegetable trader in K.R. Market.

Impact beyond State

The strike has also begun to affect interstate commerce. Lorries carrying onions from Nashik, Maharashtra – a vital supply for the State – are being delayed. Rajesh H. from the Bengaluru Commercial Trucks Association said, "About 15,000 lorries from Maharashtra and Gujarat pass through Karnataka every day. With the strike on, all this movement is disrupted."

Moreover, over 60 transport associations from 24 States have expressed solidarity with the Karnataka lorry operators strike. Lorries from these States have been advised not to enter Karnataka during the protest, adding pressure to already strained supply routes, he added.

Many truckers and association members said that unless the government takes immediate action, they would continue the strike.

"We have been patient for a long time. With diesel prices, tolls, and FC fees all going up, we are running into losses. The government says it needs more time, but we need relief now," said Rachappa M., a lorry driver from Yeshwanthpur.

"We aren't asking for freebies. We just want our issues acknowledged and dealt with urgently. Even a partial rollback in cess or toll can give us breathing space," he added.

Summer special trains for intercity travel

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Special trains will be operated between SMVT Bengaluru and Mangaluru Junction to clear the extra rush of passengers during summer holidays.

Special train schedule

Train No. 06579 SMVT Bengaluru - Mangaluru Junction Summer Special Express will leave SMVT Bengaluru at 11.55 p.m. on April 17 and reach Mangaluru Junction at 4 p.m. the next day.

Train No. 06580 Mangaluru Junction - SMVT Bengaluru Summer Special Express will leave Mangaluru Junction at 2.10 p.m. on April 20 and reach SMVT Bengaluru at 7.30 a.m. the next day.

Each of the trains will have one first class AC coach, two AC two-tier coaches, four AC three-tier coaches, seven sleeper class coaches, four general second class coaches, and two general second class luggage-cum-brake van coaches (disabled-friendly).

Praveen Nettaru murder case: NIA files chargesheet against four more

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

NIA says, among the four chargesheeted, three are absconding, and efforts are on to track them down

The National Investigation Agency (NIA) on Tuesday filed a chargesheet against four more accused in the murder of BJP Yuva Morcha member Praveen Nettaru in 2022, allegedly by cadres of the banned Popular Front of India (PFI). Among the four, three are absconding, and efforts are on to track them down, NIA said.

Booked under UA(P)A

In its second supplementary chargesheet, NIA has charged Abdul Nasir, Naushad, Abdul Rahaman, and Ateeq Ahmed under relevant sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967, taking the total number of chargesheeted accused in the case to 27, including six accused who are on the run.

According to the official release, the trio had provided shelter to the three main assailants in Mysuru and Chamarajanagara districts of Karnataka and Erode district of Tamil Nadu. Abdul Nasir and Abdul Rahaman were also allegedly involved in harbouring accused Thufail in Bengaluru.

"After the fatal attack on Praveen Nettaru, accused Ateeq and deceased Kalandar had conspired and harboured Mustafa Paichar in Chennai in the year 2022-23. Accused Abdul Rahaman had escaped to a foreign country and guided accused Riyaz in harbouring Mustafa Paichar subsequently in 2024," NIA claimed in its chargesheet.

Praveen Nettaru was murdered on July 26, 2022, in Bellare village in Dakshina Kannada district.

City police arrest Kerala man for selling hydroponic ganja

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Anti Narcotics Wing of the Central Crime Branch on Monday arrested a 25-year-old civil engineer from Kerala and reportedly recovered 3.5 kilograms of hydroponic ganja worth ₹4.5 crore from him.

The accused, identified as Jiju Prasad, was reportedly caught red-handed while delivering the drugs in Electronic City. The accused was working in a private firm and living in an apartment in Bommasandra. The accused told the police that he was sourcing the drugs from his contact, identified as Ashwin Samuel, who is presently on the run.

The accused had a large number of customers, whom he had added to a WhatsApp group, where he received orders. He used to deliver drugs through the "drop location" method, where he used to keep the drugs in an isolated public place and share its location to the customer on WhatsApp and later take payment online. Drop location method is the most common method used by the peddlers to avoid undue attention from the police. The accused used to sell each gram of hydroponic ganja for a price of ₹12,000. He would carry the drugs packed in plastic covers and carry them in his backpack. The clients list is huge, mostly consisting of IT employees living in and around Electronic city and Bommasandra, the police said. The police are now on the lookout for Samuel who is the source of the drugs from Kerala. The police are also exploring the Kerala connection in the drugs as many peddlers are operating between Kerala and Karnataka. In an unrelated case, a team of police from Areekode station in Malappuram district of Kerala raided an apartment and arrested a Ugandan national for peddling MDMA to her clients through local peddlers operating from Bengaluru, last week. The accused Ugandan national, Nakubure Teopista, 30, was arrested from Electronics City. The raid was followed by the arrest of two local peddlers earlier last week who revealed the source of drugs. Following the increase of interstate drug peddling rackets, the Kerala police have heightened security and increased checks at the entry and exit points.

In another case, police arrested a Nigerian national and reportedly recovered 1 kg of MDMA crystals worth ₹2 crore from him, taking the total seizure to ₹6.5 crore worth of narcotics in the last week. The CCB officials raided a house in Begur and arrested the accused, identified as Christian S., 44, for peddling MDMA. The accused had come to India on a visiting visa in 2012 and overstayed to peddle drugs. The officials booked him under the NDPS case and alerted the FRRO officials to initiate his deportation process.

CRPF partners with RBM to plant 10,000 sandalwood saplings

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

According to the MoU, any revenue generated from commercial sale of these trees after 15 years will be directed towards welfare of families of CRPF martyrs

In a unique green initiative, the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Rotary Bangalore Midtown (RBM) to plant sandalwood saplings in its expansive 250-acre Bengaluru campus.

The plantation is part of a broader effort to create lung space for the rapidly growing city. The aim is to start with 3,000 saplings and scale up to 10,000 based on land and water availability.

According to the MoU, any revenue generated from the commercial sale of these trees after 15 years will be directed towards the welfare of families of CRPF martyrs.

CRPF's Regional Welfare Association and RBM President Palani Loganathan welcomed the partnership, describing the campus as 'nature's own bank', where the long-term value of the trees could grow up to 400 times over the years.

RBM plans to rope in CSR partners to support the initiative, not only in planting trees but in implementing rainwater harvesting to boost groundwater levels.

RBM hopes that the project becomes a model for other secure campuses under the forces, including the military, BSF, and Air Force, to replicate across India, fostering both environmental and economic benefits, said Mr. Loganathan.

Residents call for rejuvenation of Yele Mallappa Shetty lake at Medahalli

Sutapa Dey
BENGALURU

Yele Mallappa Shetty lake, built for drinking water purposes, is now covered in hyacinth. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Once a vital source of drinking water, the Yele Mallappa Shetty lake at Medahalli in east Bengaluru, is now grappling with severe pollution, daily inflow of untreated sewage, encroachment and dumping of debris.

"My great-grandfather built a dam across the Pinakini river during the 1850s to provide drinking water during a drought. Now, the urban development has led to the mixing of sewage and industrial effluents with lake water. Encroachment by builders and developers has further exacerbated pollution," said Lingaraj Yele, a hydrogeologist and great-grandson of Yele Mallappa Shetty who built the dam.

According to Mr. Yele, the urbanisation has disturbed the natural hydrological cycle in the area. The surrounding communities are facing health concerns due to contaminated borewell water. Strong stench emanates from the lake, and mosquito-borne diseases are prevalent in the area.

Subhajit Ghosh, an activist, said that the situation has been worsening for nearly a decade. "Only a fourth of the fencing around the lake has been completed. Encroachment and illegal construction have delayed the process," he said.

Fencing needed

Mr. Ghosh emphasised the urgent need for fencing along the NH 75 where majority of the dumping occurs. He sought deployment of marshals and installation of CCTV surveillance to curb illegal activities in the area.

Balaji Ragotham, a long-time resident of the area, said that the lake's condition started deteriorating significantly after 2005.

"In 2011, authorities made an effort to rejuvenate the lake, which included building a boundary, but work was eventually halted due to government negligence. Now, the lake is covered in hyacinths, rendering it unusable for its original purpose," he said.

Continuing apathy

Jagan Kumar, who filed a case in the National Green Tribunal (NGT) in 2021 concerning encroachment and pollution of the lake, noted that despite the NGT order to remove encroachments, debris, and garbage, and to rejuvenate the lake through the 110-villages programme, the problems have not been addressed.

Raghavan, Secretary, Minor Irrigation Department, told *The Hindu* that development work has been taken up by Minor Irrigation Department near the lake, and Sewage Treatment Plants (STPs) have been set up.

"Under Government of India's 'Jal hi AMRIT' scheme, STPs have been setup across Bengaluru, but the entire sewage can't be brought into one STP. We are trying to install another STP with the help of the pollution control board," he said.

Timings
BENGALURU

WEDNESDAY, APR. 16	
RISE 06:07	SET 18:32
RISE 21:22	SET 08:04
THURSDAY, APR. 17	
RISE 06:06	SET 18:32
RISE 22:15	SET 08:50
FRIDAY, APR. 18	
RISE 06:05	SET 18:33
RISE 23:09	SET 09:41

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	35	25
Mysuru	34	20
Bengaluru	34	21

Bengaluru Today
34°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower with gusty winds to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C The weather will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Chances of light to moderate rain and thundershower with gusty winds.

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THE HINDU
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File No.HO/Civil/T&E-E-5041/01/2024/ 10495 Dt.10.04.2025

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (CIVIL), IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR

Bid Identification No.Civil/EST-10/2024-25

NOTICE INVITING TENDER UNDER NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement

1. Name of the Work : Construction of Hockey Training Centre at Tileibani, Deogarh.
2. Value of the Work : Rs.1228.08 Lakhs (Approx.)
3. Period of Completion : 09 (Nine) Calendar Months
4. Availability of tender online for Bidding :
   I. Start Date : 18:00 Hours of dt. 16.04.2025
   II. End Date : 11:00 Hours of dt. 01.05.2025
   III. Opening date : 11:30 Hours of dt. 01.05.2025

Tender details can be seen from the e-procurement portal: www.tendersorissa.gov.in. Corrigendum or Addendum if any will not be published in newspapers and can be seen in e-procurement portal as well as on IDCO website.

Sd/- Chief General Manager (Civil), IDCO, Bhubaneswar

CAD-143: OIPR-14003/11/0132/2526

ODISHA TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVT. OF ODISHA UNDERTAKING)
PANTHANIVAS (OLD BLOCK): LEWIS ROAD: BHUBANESWAR-14
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

Letter No. Date: 11.04.2025

NOTICE INVITATION FOR BIDS (NIFB)
E-Procurement Notice No. BP-I/02/2025-26 dt.11.04.2025

1. Nature of Work : Balance work, Development work and Repair and Renovation works.
2. Total No. of Works : 04 Nos.
3. Value of Works : Rs. 39.24 lakhs to 229.00 lakhs.
4. Bid security : As per NIT
5. Class of Contractor : As per NIT.
6. Period of Completion : 11 (Eleven) Months.
7. Other details as follows :-

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Bid online		Date, Time & Place of Opening of Tender
Superintending Engineer. OTDC Ltd., Bhubaneswar	BP-I/02/ 2025-26 dt.11.04.2025	From 19.04.2025	To 28.04.2025	11.30 Hours of dt.29.04.2025 in the office of the Superintending Engineer, OTDC Ltd., Bhubaneswar

Further details can be seen from the Government website: www.etenderodisha.gov.in

Sd/-
Superintending Engineer, O.T.D.C. Ltd, BBSR.

CAD-140 OIPR-37002/11/0056/2526

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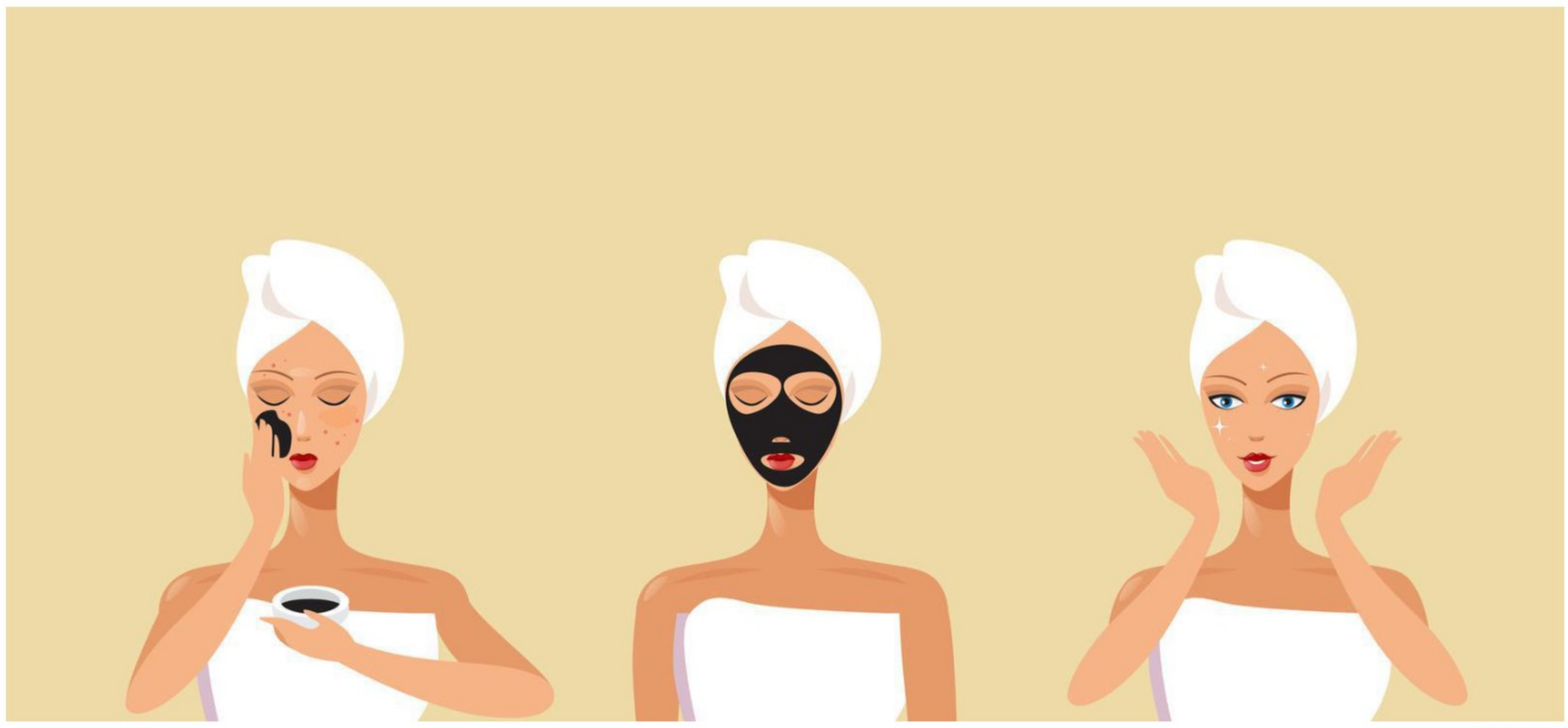
ISSN 0971 - 751X

PULSE CHECK



GETTY IMAGES

Understanding the obsession with fairer skin tones and skin lightening treatments

Populations in equatorial zones developed more melanin to protect against ultraviolet radiation, while those further from the equator evolved lighter pigmentation to aid in vitamin D synthesis. Yet over time, skin tone came to signify more than just geography

Monisha Madhumita

The debate over how the preference for fair skin impacts those who are a darker shade was in the limelight recently, after Kerala's Chief Secretary Sarada Muraleedharan called out colour and gender bias. Across much of the world, and particularly in India, skin colour remains quietly powerful – shaping ideas of beauty, respectability, and even social mobility. In this environment, the desire for lighter skin has fuelled a booming market of creams and combinations, many of which are not only ineffective, but actively harmful.

But understanding this trend – and challenging it – requires more than dermatological guidance. It calls for an interdisciplinary approach, one that draws on anthropology to trace the cultural roots of colourism, and on dermatology to address its consequences.

Between evolution and meaning

Human skin colour is, in evolutionary terms, a remarkable adaptation. Populations in equatorial zones developed more melanin to protect against ultraviolet radiation, while those further from the equator evolved lighter pigmentation to aid in vitamin D synthesis.

Yet over time, skin tone came to signify more than just geography. As S. Sumathi, Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at the University of Madras, explains, "The idea of colour has historically been linked to opposites – fair and dark, good and bad. These dualities became part of how communities organised themselves socially." In the Indian context, she notes, these ideas were reinforced by colonial rule and social hierarchies.

Early British ethnographers classified populations based on skin tone and other features, embedding a value system that persists subtly to this day. "Fairness gradually came to be associated with refinement, aspiration, even moral character," she says. "Unfortunately, those perceptions were absorbed across communities and continue to influence how we see ourselves and each other."

The quiet cost of fairness

While cultural beliefs sustain the demand for lighter skin, dermatologists are increasingly concerned with the health risks that follow.

Ramesh Bhat, head of research at Father Muller Medical College and former International Director (2019-2024) of the International League of Dermatological Societies (ILDS), has been witnessing a steady rise in patients suffering from the misuse of topical corticosteroids – powerful prescription drugs intended for conditions like eczema or psoriasis. "These are Schedule H medications, meant to be used under medical supervision," he explains. "But they're often sold over the counter or even used in salons, particularly for skin lightening."

The consequences can be serious. "Prolonged use leads to thinning of the skin, acne, infections, and uneven pigmentation – sometimes worsening the very issues people are trying to treat," says Prof. Bhat. Even more concerning is the growing trend of combination creams, which blend steroids with antifungals or bleaching agents. "These irrational mixes not only damage the skin but also promote resistance, especially to fungal treatments."

Long-term misuse can also affect internal systems. "We've seen cases where extended use leads to elevated blood sugar, high blood pressure, and suppression of adrenal function," he warns. "It's a quiet but growing public health concern – rooted not just in access, but in aspiration."

Global industry, a local psychology

Across Asia, Africa, and Latin America, fairness continues to be marketed as desirable – often as a symbol of progress or modernity. In India, those messages are reinforced through advertising, films, and matrimonial listings. "Even today, fairness is casually equated with success and desirability," says Prof. Sumathi. "It's internalised from a very young age, especially among girls. But increasingly, boys are not immune either."

At the same time, skin tone plays a different role in how masculinity is constructed. "Dark skin is sometimes culturally coded as rugged, strong, or masculine – especially in film and popular culture," she notes. "But that doesn't offer immunity. These stereotypes also box men into narrow roles and exclude those who don't fit the mould." While women are often pressured to lighten their skin to appear delicate or refined, men may feel compelled to embody a darker, hyper-masculine ideal – leaving little room for nuance, choice, or vulnerability.

What makes this especially difficult to unlearn is that skin tone is not just cosmetic – it's socially symbolic. "It becomes a way to navigate society. Lighter skin is seen as an asset – in work, in relationships, in everyday interactions," Prof. Sumathi explains. "That's why changing these attitudes isn't just about products, but about perception."

Rethinking role of medicine, media

As public concern around steroid misuse grows, the ILDS and national dermatology bodies have called for stronger regulation. But Prof. Bhat believes a more holistic response is needed: "Yes, pharmacists must stop selling these drugs without prescriptions. But we also need public awareness campaigns that de-link fairness from beauty – and promote skin health over skin tone." Education will play a key role. "Schools and institutions must challenge long-standing stereotypes about skin colour," says Prof. Sumathi. "If we wait until adulthood, these beliefs are already deeply embedded." Both experts stress that the media – from cinema to social platforms – has a critical role to play. "We need more realistic and diverse representation," Prof. Sumathi adds. "Advertising still centres around lighter-skinned models, even when the audience itself is far more diverse."

Anthropology also offers a way forward – by encouraging us to move beyond the simplistic binary of fair and dark. "Postmodern perspectives suggest that these categories aren't fixed," says Prof. Sumathi. "There are nuances, overlaps – and a real need to stop seeing skin tone as a ladder of value."

Instead of treating fairness as the ideal, we can begin to ask different questions: What does it mean to care for our skin? How can we value health, heritage, and individual variation over inherited ideals? "We must dismantle the idea that beauty, competence, or virtue is tied to complexion," she says. "This takes time, but it begins with everyday language and representation."

Towards a different kind of fairness

Skin, ultimately, is a story – one of ancestry, adaptation, and lived experience. In India, that story has been shaped by history, reinforced by commerce, and absorbed into daily life. But as more voices – from dermatologists to anthropologists, patients to educators – come together, that narrative is beginning to shift. A new kind of "fairness" is emerging: one that prioritises equity over complexion, dignity over perception, and truth over tradition. This isn't about criticising people for wanting to care for their appearance – that's a natural instinct. But it's essential to ensure those choices aren't shaped by unexamined ideals or unsafe products. True empowerment lies in informed decisions, where beauty isn't dictated by fairness, and worth isn't measured in skin tone.

Dr. Monisha Madhumita is a consultant dermatologist at Saveetha Medical College, Chennai.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

English comic actor, filmmaker and composer Charlie Chaplin was born on this day in 1889. Here is a quiz on one of the most recognisable faces in the world

Sindhu Nagaraj

QUESTION 1
What was Chaplin's most memorable on-screen character which became an icon in world cinema during the era of silent film?

QUESTION 2
Which was Chaplin's first feature-length film, which was released in 1921?

QUESTION 3
At the very first Academy Awards, he was given a special trophy, "For versatility and genius in acting, writing, directing and producing _____. Name the film.

QUESTION 4
Which celebrated writer accused Chaplin of being a secret communist and a friend of the USSR in the 1949 _____'s list document? The writer had prepared a list of notable writers and other people he considered to be unsuitable as possible writers for the anti-communist propaganda activities of the Information Research Department. Name the writer.

QUESTION 5
Charlie is the subject of a biographical film, *Chaplin* (1992) directed by Richard Attenborough. Who stars in the title role?

Visual question:
Identify this 1940 film from the image.

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Leonardo's Florentine mentor. **Ans: Andrea del Verrocchio**
2. The common link between Atlanticus, Arundel, Leicester, Madrid I and II. **Ans: These are some of the notebooks or Codices containing many of Da Vinci's notes and drawings**
3. The original name of 'Mona Lisa'. **Ans: Lisa Gherardini del Giocondo, the wife of a Florentine silk merchant**
4. Da Vinci's largest painting. **Ans:** *The Last Supper*
5. Name the technique Leonardo used in many of his paintings. **Ans: Sfumato**
6. The speciality about 'The Virgin and Laughing Child'. **Ans: Da Vinci scholars have attributed it to da Vinci as "the artist's only surviving sculpture"**
7. The more common name for the portrait of Cecilia Gallerani. **Ans:** *The Lady with an Ermine*
Visual: Name this work. **Ans:** *Salvator Mundi*
Early Birds: Tamal Biswas| Rajib Ganguly| Erfanally Oosmany| Tito Shiladitya| Piyali Tuli

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know Your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"How do you pronounce 'p...i...z..z..a...z...z.'?"

"Different people pronounce it differently, so..."

"...just tell me one way of pronouncing it."

"O.k. The 'i' in the first syllable 'pi' is pronounced like the 'a' in 'China'. And the 'a' in the second syllable is pronounced like the 'a' in words like 'cat', 'hat' and 'mat'. The stress is on the second syllable."

"So, it's piZZAZZ! is that right?"

"Yes, that's right. All the 'z' s are pronounced like the 'z' in words like 'zebra', 'zero' and 'zoo'."

"But what does pizzazz mean."

"Well, something that has 'pizzazz' is 'exceptionally exciting or attractive'. For example, the new chairman of my father's company lacks pizzazz."

"Can I say, the West Indies team has a lot of pizzazz?"

"I suppose you could. The word is not used with people alone. It can be used with things also. For example, the singer put pizzazz into the song. The director refused to start shooting because he felt that the script lacked pizzazz."

"Most scripts lack pizzazz these days."

"That's true. But remember, 'pizzazz' is an informal word, it cannot be used in all contexts."

"I'll remember that. So does your father like the new chairman?"

"He says he's slippery as an eel."

"Slippery as an eel! Isn't an eel a fish that looks like a snake?"

"That's right. And when you say that someone is 'slippery as an eel', it means he/ she is 'devious and untrustworthy, but impossible to catch'. For example, Ganesh asked me not to sign a lease with his landlord, because he thought he was slippery as an eel."

"Here's another example. The new manager at the chit fund office is slippery as an eel."

"So, how does your father cope up with...Oops, sorry, how does your father cope with the situation?"

"I don't know. We haven't really..."

"…. is he rude with the chairman?"

"Rude to!"

"What?"

"Is he rude 'to' the chairman and not rude 'with' the chairman."

"So, you are always 'rude to' and 'rude with' someone?"

"Yes. that's right. I have always been rude to my younger brother."

"I didn't even know you had one."

"That was just an example. Similarly, you say 'kind to'. It's very difficult to be kind to everyone."

"I know. Try being kind to my numerous cousins. It's next to impossible. But coming back to your father. Is he rude to the chairman?"

"Of course, not! He likes his job too much to be rude to the chairman."

"So, he is being nice to him, I suppose."

"Killing him with kindness. You could say!"

Published in The Hindu on February 27, 1996.

Word of the day

Heedless:
marked by or paying little attention; characterised by careless unconcern

Synonym: reckless

Usage: *He ran into the building, heedless of his own safety.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/heedlesspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /'hi:dləs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ

ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ, ಕಲಬುರಗಿ

ಮತ್ತು

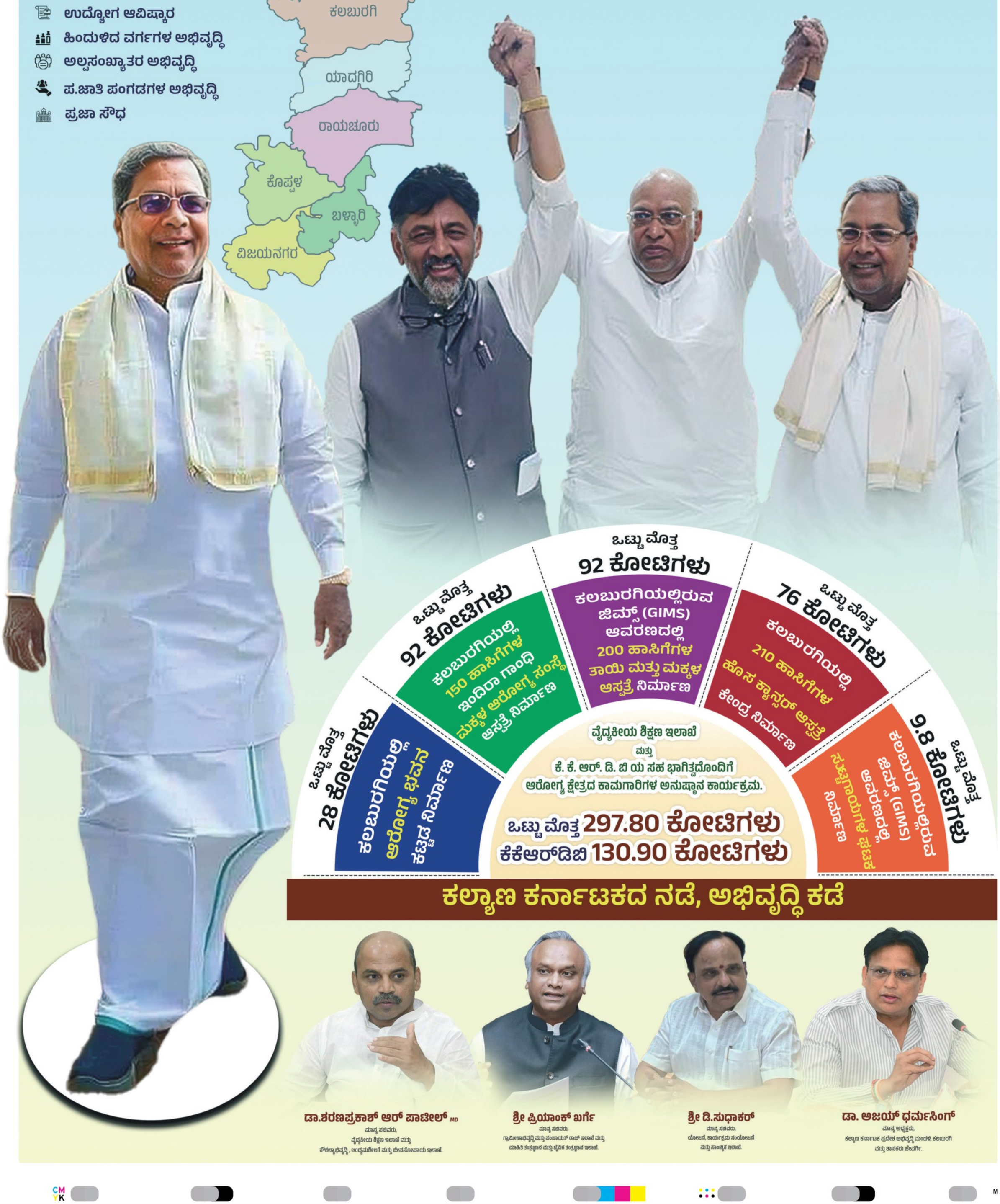
ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ

ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೆ ಆರೋಗ್ಯದ ಅಡಿಪಾಯ

ಕೆ.ಕೆ.ಆರ್.ಡಿ.ಬಿ ಪ್ರಮುಖ ಯೋಜನೆಗಳು

- ಅಕ್ಷರ ಆವಿಷ್ಕಾರ
- ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಆವಿಷ್ಕಾರ
- ಉದ್ಯೋಗ ಆವಿಷ್ಕಾರ
- ಹಿಂದುಳಿದ ವರ್ಗಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ
- ಅಲ್ಪಸಂಖ್ಯಾತರ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ
- ಪ.ಜಾತಿ ಪಂಗಡಗಳ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ
- ಪ್ರಜಾ ಸೌಧ

ದಿನಾಂಕ : 16.04.2025 ಬುಧವಾರ ರಂದು
ಸಮಯ ಬೆಳಿಗ್ಗೆ : 11.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ
ಸ್ಥಳ :- ಗುಲಬರ್ಗಾ ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ವಿಜ್ಞಾನ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ , ಕಲಬುರಗಿ.



ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ **92 ಕೋಟಿಗಳು**
ಕಲಬುರಗಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಜಿಮ್ಸ್ (GIMS) ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ 200 ಹಾಸಿಗೆಗಳ ತಾಯಿ ಮತ್ತು ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ

ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ **92 ಕೋಟಿಗಳು**
ಕಲಬುರಗಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 150 ಹಾಸಿಗೆಗಳ ಇಂದಿರಾ ಗಾಂಧಿ ಮಕ್ಕಳ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಸಂಸ್ಥೆ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ

ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ **76 ಕೋಟಿಗಳು**
ಕಲಬುರಗಿಯಲ್ಲಿ 210 ಹಾಸಿಗೆಗಳ ಹೊಸ ಕ್ಯಾನ್ಸರ್ ಆಸ್ಪತ್ರೆ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ

ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ **9.8 ಕೋಟಿಗಳು**
ಕಲಬುರಗಿಯಲ್ಲಿರುವ ಜಿಮ್ಸ್ (GIMS) ಆವರಣದಲ್ಲಿ ಸುಟ್ಟಗಾಯಗಳ ಘಟಕ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ

ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ **28 ಕೋಟಿಗಳು**
ಕಲಬುರಗಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಭವನ ಕಟ್ಟಡ ನಿರ್ಮಾಣ

ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ
ಮತ್ತು
ಕೆ. ಕೆ. ಆರ್. ಡಿ. ಬಿ ಯ ಸಹ ಭಾಗಿತ್ವದೊಂದಿಗೆ
ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕ್ಷೇತ್ರದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಅನುಷ್ಠಾನ ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ.

ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ 297.80 ಕೋಟಿಗಳು
ಕೆಕೆಆರ್‌ಡಿಬಿ 130.90 ಕೋಟಿಗಳು

ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕದ ನಡೆ, ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಡೆ

ಡಾ.ಶರಣಪ್ರಕಾಶ್ ಆರ್ ಪಾಟೀಲ್ MD
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಚಿವರು,
ವೈದ್ಯಕೀಯ ಶಿಕ್ಷಣ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಮತ್ತು
ಕೌಶಲ್ಯಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ , ಉದ್ಯಮಶೀಲತೆ ಮತ್ತು ಜೀವನೋಪಾಯ ಇಲಾಖೆ.

ಶ್ರೀ ಪ್ರಿಯಾಂಕ್ ಖರ್ಗೆ
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಚಿವರು,
ಗ್ರಾಮೀಣಾಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮತ್ತು ಪಂಚಾಯತ್ ರಾಜ್ ಇಲಾಖೆ ಮತ್ತು
ಮಾಹಿತಿ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ ಮತ್ತು ಜೈವಿಕ ತಂತ್ರಜ್ಞಾನ ಇಲಾಖೆ.

ಶ್ರೀ ಡಿ.ಸುಧಾಕರ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಸಚಿವರು,
ಯೋಜನೆ, ಕಾರ್ಯಕ್ರಮ ಸಂಯೋಜನೆ
ಮತ್ತು ಸಾಂಖ್ಯಿಕ ಇಲಾಖೆ.

ಡಾ. ಅಜಯ್ ಧರ್ಮಸಿಂಗ್
ಮಾನ್ಯ ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು,
ಕಲ್ಯಾಣ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಪ್ರದೇಶ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಮಂಡಳಿ, ಕಲಬುರಗಿ
ಮತ್ತು ಕಾಸಕರು ಜೇವರ್ಗಿ.

MUDA case: Special court defers decision on 'B' report

It allows further probe to fix responsibility on former MUDA commissioners for causing loss to exchequer by illegal allotment of sites, including 14 sites allotted CM's wife

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A special court in Bengaluru on Tuesday allowed the request of the Lokayukta police to conduct further investigation in the case of illegal allotment of sites by Mysuru Urban Development Authority (MUDA) to probe the roles of former commissioners of MUDA in causing loss to State exchequer by allotting sites illegally.

Also, the court deferred its decision on considering the 'B' final report submitted by the Lokayukta police that they could not establish the allegations of corruption and other criminal offences alleged against Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, his wife B.M. Parvathi, her brother B.M. Mallikarjuna Swamy and Devaraju J., who had sold three acres and 16 guntas of land to Mr. Mallikarjua Swamy after getting it denotified from MUDA.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah

Meanwhile, the court considered the Enforcement Directorate (ED) as an "aggrieved party" for the limited purpose of allowing it to place records and materials collected during its probe under the provisions of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002, based on First Information Report (FIR) registered by the Lokayukta police.

Santhosh Gajanan Bhat, judge of the special court of sessions for criminal cases against former and present MPs, and MLAs passed the order while considering the plea of the ED, the protest petition opposing 'B' report filed by social activist Snehamayi Krishna, on whose complaint the court had ordered investigation in MUDA case.

The court noted that the investigation officer of the Lokayukta police, in his final report, had stated that due to the illegal allotment of hundreds of sites, including 14 sites that were allotted to Ms. Parvathi, by D.B. Natesh, a former commissioner of MUDA, his predecessors and successors in 50:50 ratio during 2016-2024, huge loss has been caused to the Government exchequer, and it requires further probe to fix responsibility and quantify the loss caused.

As the Lokayukta police sought permission to conduct further investigation, the court said that it could not decide the objections filed by Mr. Krishna against the exoneration of Mr. Siddaramaiah and three others or acceptance of 'B' report at this stage, as the investigation conducted so far is "not conclusive." Mr. Krishna had questioned the very basis of the exoneration of Mr. Siddaramaiah and others, even after coming to the conclusion that a huge loss was caused to the exchequer due to illegal allotment of sites.

The court said it would consider the 'B' final report submitted with respect to Mr. Siddaramaiah and three others when the investigating agency completes the probe in its entirety while directing the Lokayukta police to complete the probe and submit final report. The Court adjourned further proceedings till May 7.

Hubballi case: 'Follow SC guidelines'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka on Tuesday directed the State government to follow scrupulously guidelines issued by the Supreme Court in 2014 regarding the deaths of accused persons in police encounters, in the Hubballi case.

This was the case in which a 35-year-old man, who is accused of allegedly murdering a five-year-old girl after sexually assaulting her, was shot dead while he was in police custody.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice N.V. Anjaria and Justice K.V. Aravind issued the direction while hearing a PIL petition filed by People's Union of Civil Liberties (PUCL), Karnataka.

Raising doubts about police claims on the encounter death, the PUCL had sought preservation of body of Ritesh Kumar, a migrant worker from Bihar, while expressing apprehension that his body was likely to be cremated. The petitioner also pointed out the guidelines issued by the apex court in PUCL vs. State of Maharashtra, in 2014. However, the Bench termed as "not well placed" the petitioner's claim that the dead body of the accused would be cremated, as the State Advocate General told the court that that body of an accused person, who dies in police encounter is permitted only to be buried as per the norm as the body may require to be exhumed for investigation at a later stage.

The A-G pointed out to the Bench that a First Information Report (FIR) has already been registered and the investigation has already been handed over to Criminal Investigation Department (CID) in terms of the apex court's guidelines while making it clear that the government is bound to follow the apex court's guidelines in this case.

Also, the A-G told the court that question of disposing the dead body does not arise in this case as the post-mortem was not done as the body is yet to be identified by his parents or any relatives as per the norm. The A-G also said that the authorities will preserve sample of parts of the body, if taken for analysis, for investigation purpose.

Meanwhile, the Bench adjourned further hearing on the petition till April 24 while directing the government to set up a panel to conduct postmortem and videograph inquest as per the apex court's guidelines.

Hubballi girl murder case transferred to CID

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

A decision on what to do if the family of the accused never arrive to claim the body will be taken in a few days

The State government has transferred the case involving the murder of a five-year-old girl and the police shooting in which the accused died in Hubballi on Monday, to the Criminal Investigation Department.

CID officers, Superintendent of Police Venkatesh K., Deputy Superintendent of Police Puneeth Kumar and Circle Inspector of Police Manjunath Adhikari, arrived in Hubballi on Tuesday to initiate investigation.

They visited the scene of the offence, met police officials involved in the initial investigation and visited the hospital. They interacted with Deputy Commissioner M. Ravish and other officers, police sources said.

The CID team also met doctors at the government morgue.

The police told them that the post-mortem examination of the body of the accused Ritesh Kumar has begun. This is being done in the presence of five witnesses. Officials have collected visceral samples to see if the accused consumed drugs.

The police said that they have decided to preserve the body after the post-mortem, as the family members of the accused have not arrived yet to claim it.

A decision on what to do if the family never comes will be taken in a few days.

BJP MP Jagadish Shettar visited the family members of the victim. He spoke to the girl's mother who urged Mr. Shettar to work with all concerned to ensure that her daughter got justice.

Mr. Shettar said he was very sad about the incident but very happy about the swift action of the police. He said that he will meet and congratulate Sub-Inspector of Police Annapurna Mukkannavar who shot the accused in the leg following which he died.

He said that Home Minister G. Parameshwar's recent statement about offences against women was irresponsible. He urged the Home Minister to take strict action against the spreading drug menace in the State, especially in the urban areas.

Mr. Shettar demanded that the State government release ₹25 lakh to the victim's family.

Police shoot at accused, arrest him

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The Bhadravati Police arrested a person wanted in a ganja case after shooting at him as he allegedly tried to escape attacking the police with dagger and a country-made pistol.

Nasru alias Nasrulla, 21, was an accused in a ganja case. The Bhadravati Old Town Police arrested four persons and seized 1.4 kg of ganja from them on Monday.

Nasrulla, one among the accused in the case, had been absconding.

The police, acting on a tip-off, went to catch him on Tuesday morning. He tried to attack the police and the escape.

Chandrasekhar, the PSI, opened fire after warning him. Later, the police shifted him to hospital and seized the pistol.

Woman, son die in accident in Mysuru dist.

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

A devastating road accident near Bannur in T. Narsipur taluk near here claimed the lives of a mother and her son on Monday.

The mother Parvathi, 48, and her son Shankar, 21, were returning to Mysuru on a motorcycle after visiting a temple. They were involved in a mishap with a car on the bridge across Cauvery river near Bannur.

While Shankar died on the spot, his mother was thrown off the vehicle into the river and was swept away by the currents. A search operation launched by the Fire and Emergency Services personnel managed to recover the body around 1 p.m. on Tuesday.

The victims were residents of B.M. Sri Nagar in Mysuru.

K.K.R.T.C. CE DIVISION BALLARI

No.KKRTC/EE/CEB/DB/25 /2025-26 Dated: 09-04-2025

E-PROCRUMENT SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION NO. 01 /2025-26

The notification was given on Dt:07-03-2025 The Hindu dally paper but tender was not invited for administrative reasons. And now we are inviting short term tender **1) Name of Work:- Construction of New Bus Depot in Old Bus Station Premisos at Karatagi 2) Amount put to Tender Rs.600.00 Lakhs** (Including All Taxes and GST) **3) EMD :- Rs. 9,00,000.00** In E-procurement the contractors will have to upload all informations in website only. i.e. (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) Bidders / contractors need to register in the e-Procurement portal to submit their bids online and any corrigendum for this notification will be published through E-Procurement portal only. **More information E-Procurement Helpline 080-25501216 / 25501227 or 08392-294828 / 7760992035**

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
K.K.R.T.C. CE Division, Ballari

DIPR/Ballari/29/KSMCA/2025-26

राष्ट्रीय पृथ्वी विज्ञान अध्ययन केंद्र
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR EARTH SCIENCE STUDIES
पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India
Akkulam, Thiruvananthapuram -11

No: NCESS/P&GA/9424/09/2025 Date: 15.04.2025

RECRUITMENT

NCESS conducts walk-in interview on **23.04.2025** at its campus in Thiruvananthapuram, for the post of **Project Associate I (Finance)** on contract basis. Please visit website for details. Further changes, if any, will be notified through website only.

Website: www.ncess.gov.in /Phone No: 0471-2511500.

Sd/- Senior Manager

DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE SERVICES
Arogya Soudha, Magadi Road, Bengaluru -560 023
Ph: 080-23295623 e-mail: ddehospital-hfws@karnataka.gov.in

No: e-h/Recruitment through State budget/2023-24 (E-1133294) Date: 15.04.2025

WALK -IN- INTERVIEW

The Directorate of Health and Family Welfare Services invites suitable interested candidates for the Walk-in-Interview to the following post. The post is temporary and purely on contractual basis upto **31-03-2026.** The interested candidates should bring all the original documents along with one set of self-attested photocopy of certificates, passport size photograph and valid identity proof.

The interested candidates shall register their name on **28.04.2025 between 10.00 am to 11.00 am** for the respective post mentioned below:

Sl. No.	Post	Number of vacancies	Qualifications	Experience	Date, time & Location of Walk-in-interview
1	Linux System Administrator	01	BE (CS/IT)/ B.Tech (CS/IT)/ MCA	• Linux (Redhat) • Experience in windows environment (preferable) • 5 Years' Experience preferably experience in the Cloud environment.	Walk-in-interview date: **28-04-2025 at 10.00 am.** **Location:** 3rd floor, Health and Family Welfare Services, Arogya Soudha, Bengaluru.
2	Sakala Consultant	01	Any Degree (BA, BSc, B.Com)	• Minimum 2 years working experience • Spoken/Written Kannada is Mandatory	

For additional details regarding the post, please visit: **https://hfwcom.karnataka.gov.in**

DIPR/CP/BCPL/198/2025-26

Sd/- Director
DH&FWS, Bengaluru

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed through this public notice the property bearing S. No. 179 Adm. 01 H. 62 R. is situated at Mauje Munjeri within the local limits of Pune city. That the present property was owned and possessed exclusively by one deceased Devidas Vasudev Kulkarni. That Devidas Vasudev Kulkarni expired on dt. 30/06/1972. That wife of deceased Devidas Vasudev Kulkarni namely Malti Devidas Kulkarni also expired on dt. 24/07/2007. That Late. Devidas Vasudev Kulkarni and Late. Malti Devidas Kulkarni left Shri Gangadhar Devidas Kulkarni only as their sole recognized legal heir R/o. H. No. 451, Parit Lane, Raviwar Peth, Phaltan, Satara. That the said fact of recognized legal heir is seen as per the legal heirship certificate issued by the Hon'ble C.J.S.D. Pune.

That by this public notice it is informed to public at large, That anybody claiming legal heirs of deceased Devidas Vasudev Kulkarni and Malti Devidas Kulkarni respectively should make the same known in writing along with documentary evidence to the undersigned at the address mentioned below within **15 days** from the date of the publication of this public notice.

In the event if no such claim/objection is received the same will be consider as if no such claim exists regarding legal heirs or that they have been waived or abandoned their rights.

Adv. J. R. Khan
G 106, Mega Center, Hadapsar, Pune 411028. Mob. 9822671463

Place : Pune
Date: 16/04/2025

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ
ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರ ಕಛೇರಿ, ಪೌರಾಡಳಿತ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನಾಲಯ
9ನೇ ಮಹಡಿ, ವಿಶ್ವೇಶ್ವರಯ್ಯ ಟವರ್, ಡಾ॥ ಅಂಬೇಡ್ಕರ್ ವೀಧಿ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560001.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ: 080–22861611 / 22866302 ಫ್ಯಾಕ್ಸ್: 080–22863576 /22861665
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್: sedmatech@gmail.com Website: www.municipaladmn.gov.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : 1608096 DMA/TECH/MGNV/16/2024 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 09.04.2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಮಹಾತ್ಮಗಾಂಧಿ ನಗರ ವಿಕಾಸ ಯೋಜನೆ (ಹಂತ–2) ಯಡಿ ಮೂಲಭೂತ ಸೌಕರ್ಯ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಕರೆಯಲು ಉದ್ದೇಶಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ.

Sl. No.	Description	Project Cost (Rs in Lakhs)
1.	**Package-01:** Comprehensive development of arterial & sub arterial roads with underground conduits for utilities under Urban connectivity including footpath, drains, storm water drain, drain cover slab at ward no's 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17,18, 20, 26, 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, 38, 45, 46 and 47 in Belagavi city corporation limits.**(DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT38452).**	**4700.00**
2.	**Package-02:** Comprehensive development of arterial & sub arterial roads with underground conduits for utilities under Urban connectivity including footpath, drains, drain cover slab at ward no's 2, 3, 10, 15, 16, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 30, 31, 33, 34, 36, 39, 40, 41, 44, 49, 50, 51, 53, 56, 57 & 58 in Belagavi city corporation limits. **(DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT38534).**	**4975.00**
3.	**Package-04:** Comprehensive development of arterial & sub arterial roads with underground conduits for utilities under Urban connectivity including footpath, drains, Storm water drain, drain cover slab under TSP Scheme at ward no. 45& 55 in Belagavi city corporation limits. **(DMA/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT38425).**	**888.00**

ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ದ್ವಿ–ಲಕೋಟೆ ಪದ್ಧತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪ್ರಚುರಪಡಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಸೂಚಿಸಿರುವ ದಿನಾಂಕದೊಳಗೆ ಆಸಕ್ತ ಬಿಡ್/ ಏಜೆನ್ಸಿದಾರರು ಭಾಗವಹಿಸಲು ಕೋರಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಯಾವುದೇ ಮಾಹಿತಿಯನ್ನು ಕೆ.ಪಿ.ಪಿ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರವೇ ಪಡೆಯುವುದು.

ಸಹಿ/–
ನಿರ್ದೇಶಕರು, ಪೌರಾಡಳಿತ ನಿರ್ದೇಶನಾಲಯ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು.

DIPR/CP/221/Zen/2025-26

IN THE COURT OF THE HON'BLE ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER, BENGALURU SOUTH SUB-DIVISION AT BENGALURU
R.A(A) No. 183/ 2025
APPELLANTS : SMT. JAYALAKSHMI
Represented by GPA Holder Sri. Paramesh
RESPONDENTS :
1. The Tahasildar Bengaluru South Taluk, Anekal
2. Sri. Munikrishnappa, 3. Sri. M. Ramakrishnappa
4. Sri. M Munesh, 5. Sri. M Venkatesh, 6. Smt. Ammaiahmma ,7. Smt. Kalavathi, 8. Sri. Anil Kumar
9. Sri. Munikrishna C M, 10. Sri Srinivasa ,11. Sri. Ambarish, 12. Sri. Harish, 13. Sri. Sathish
Resp No. 2 to 13 are R/at Chikkanagamangala Village Sarjapura Hobli Anekal

PUBLIC NOTICE

Whereas the appellant has preferred this appeal to Set-aside Mutation Orders in
MR No. H16/2015-16 dated 19.08.2015;
MR No. H24/2015-16 dated 30.11.2015;
MR No. T1/2016-17 dated 01.08.2016;
MR No. H16/2016-17 dated 18.10.2016;
MR No. H36/2016-17 dated 26.04.2017;
MR No. H68/2018-19 dated 24.11.2018;
MR No. H20/2019-20; dated 25.09.2019;
MR No. H1/2020-21 dated 17.03.2020;
MR No. T22/2020-21; dated 01.12.2020;
MR No. H25/2021-22 dated 16.10.2021;
MR No. H28/2021-22 dated 11.11.2021

Passed by the Respondent No.1 with respect to new Survey No. 184, 184/1, 184/2, 184/3, and 184/4 (old Survey No. 72/4) measuring 4 Acres 13 Guntas in Chikkanagamangala Village, SarjapuraHobli, Anekal Taluk. The hearing of the said case is fixed on **22-04-2025 at about 3.00 p.m.** and you are hereby directed to appear on that day before the Hon'ble Authority personally or through your Advocate failing which the matter will be determined ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the Court on **15-04-2025**

By order of the Court, Assistant Commissioner, Bengaluru South Sub-division At Bengaluru

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GKVK : 2330153-250 / Direct : 23332765.
Website: www.uasbangalore.edu.in. Email : eo@uasbangalore.edu.in

No. EO/SPO/kppp/01/2025-26 Date: 11-04-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION: 2nd Call
(kpp Portal only)

The University of Agricultural Sciences, Bengaluru has invited Tender in the **prescribed form as per the Standard tender document KG-2, from the reputed firms for the procurement of Equipment under VTPC Funded Project.**

Blank Tender Documents can be downloaded from **kppp.karnataka.gov.in,** The Last date and time for uploading the tender on **24-04-2025 up to 4.00 p.m.** The Technical bid will be opened on **26-04-2025 at 10.30 a.m.** The Financial bid will be opened on **29-04-2025 at 10.30 a.m.** in the Tender Committee room of Estate Office.

Further details can be had from the office of the undersigned during working hours and also refer UAS Website: **www.uasbangalore.edu.in.** Help Desk **91-8046010000, +91-8068948777. support@eprochelpdesk.com.** The University reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reasons.

DIPR/CP/RO213/2025-26

Sd/-
ESTATE OFFICER

KMF Karnataka Co-Operative Milk Producers' Federation Limited
KMF Complex: Dr. M. H. Marigowda Road,
DRC Post, Bangalore-560 029.
Tel: 080-25536625 / 25536789 Fax: 080-25536105

IFT No: KMF/ENGG/ NSS-Sprinkler /1946/2025-26 Date: 15-04-2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
[TWO COVER SYSTEM] [THROUGH KPP PORTAL ONLY]

Karnataka Milk Federation Ltd; Bangalore invites tender from the eligible manufacturers/ authorised dealer through KPP Portal for the works mentioned in the table below. The interested manufacturers/Suppliers who have handled similar kind of works may participate in the tender as indicated below, by logging on to website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in and also contact Help desk E-mail; hphelpdesk.blr@intarvo.com and helpline no. 080-25501227/ 25501216.

Sl. No.	Name of the work	Qty.	EMD in Rs.	Period of Completion
1	Supply of Irrigation Equipments to NSS Hesaraghatta.	1 Job	26,250/-	2 months

1. Tender schedules may be downloaded from dated: 16-04-2025 to 23-04-2025 up to 4.00 pm.
2. Last date for Tender submission on date: 23-04-2025 up to 4.00 pm
3. Tender [Part 1] to be opened on date: 24-04-2025 at 4:30 pm.

For Karnataka Milk Federation Limited
Sd/- Director [Engineering-2]

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : SUNDARGARH
AT/PO-SANKARA, SUNDARGARH-770020, E-mail address-serw_sundargarh@yahoo.com

No.Tender Online – RWCCESNG-03 of 2025-26, Letter No.990 /Dtd.11.04.2025

e-Procurement NOTICE

1. Type of the Work : **Roads (MMSY)**
2. Class of Contractor : As specified in the column-6 of the Annexure
3. Time of Completion : As specified in the column-5 of the Annexure
4. Detail Projects : As per Annexure attached
5. Estimated Cost : As specified in the column-4 of the Annexure
6. Other details:

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on-line for bidding From	To	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of tender Technical Bid	Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh	RWCCESNG-03 of 2025-26	22.04.2025 11:00 AM	07.05.2025 5:00 PM	06.05.2025 5:00 PM	08.05.2025 11:00 AM	Will be intimated separately

● Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**

Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Sundargarh.

O-51 : OIPR-25133/11/0045/2526

OPPORTUNITIES

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AIMA president Suneeta Reddy has called the 2024 MCDI Report an important marker of Indian management's evolution over the past decade and half, which has been a period of unprecedented challenges and opportunities for India's business leaders.

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Dr. M.S. Shejul
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Date: 16-04-2025 **Sd/-**
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Last date of submission of Online application	30.04.2025 (5:00 pm)

For more details, visit www.cmd.kerala.gov.in. Sd/- Director

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भारत सरकार / Government of India

Advt.No. 3(133)/97/Contract/RECTT/2025/6

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Ref:KU/Reg.Off./Advt/2025-26/267 **Date : 09/04/2025**

Advertisement No.2025-26/001

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	Computer Applications	
	Physics, Chemistry, Mathematics & English	
Faculty of Commerce & Management	Commerce & Management (B.Com - Professional, Strategic Finance, Investment Banking, Industry Integrated, BBA – Business Analytics, BBA-MBA (Integrated))	Dean, Professors, Associate Professors, Assistant Professors.

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Vokkaligas and Lingayats go into a huddle

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Vokkaliga community leaders were in a huddle on Tuesday to discuss their future course of action on the issue of the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey report that is set to be discussed in the Cabinet on Thursday.

While Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar chaired a meeting of Vokkaliga Ministers and legislators, mostly from the Congress, in the evening to formulate a response, the Rajya Vokkaliga Sangha decided to wait till Thursday to announce its next course.

Sangha president Kenchappa Gowda told presspersons that the executive committee on Tuesday decided to wait till the Cabinet meeting and then launch a protest if needed.

Late on Tuesday evening, Mr. Shivakumar chaired a meeting of Vokkaliga leaders, which was going on at the time of going to press.

The Akhila Bharata Veerashaiva Mahasabha is yet to hold the meeting of Lingayat legislators, and sources said that it is likely to be held on Wednesday night or Thursday morning. A joint meeting of Veerashaiva-Lingayat and Vokkaliga leaders is also being planned, sources said.

'Send to Centre'

Meanwhile, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah's economic adviser Basavaraj Rayaraddi told presspersons that the State should accept the report and send it to the Centre to ensure that it gets into the Ninth Schedule.

'Caste census survey was scientific and done in transparent manner'

Process was conducted through government machinery and 1.3 lakh teachers took part, and the IIMB studied the survey methodology and certified it, says Kantharaj Commission member

Sharath S. Srivatsa
BENGALURU

A sticker pasted on the wall of a house after the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey in Bengaluru.

Amidst the dominant land-owning Veerashaiva-Lingayat and Vokkaliga communities terming the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey as "unscientific", those involved in the survey conducted by the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes have dismissed those claims. They say it is scientific and conducted in a transparent manner.

The Veerashaiva-Lingayat and Vokkaliga community leaders have sought a fresh survey as their population figures are far lower than what they have traditionally claimed. The Veerashaiva-Lingayat population is pegged at 66.35 lakh (11% of the State's population) as per the survey, while they have claimed it to be between 17% and 22%.

The Vokkaliga population is around 61.58 lakh (10.29%), as against their claim to be between 13% and 15%. Leaders from both communities have disputed survey figures and called for a fresh survey.

Of the projected population of about 6.35 crore in 2015 (census population figure was 6.11 crore) in Karnataka, the survey conducted by the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes led by H. Kantharaj in 2015 covered about 5.98 crore from about 1.35 crore households in the State. The report was submitted by the K. Jayaprakash Hegde-led commission in 2024. The commission has acknowledged that about 37 lakh or about 5.83% of the population could not be covered.

Refuting these claims, K.N. Lingappa, member of the Kantharaj Commission, said: "We have not left out any castes/sub castes. The commission advertised twice seeking feedback from communities if any had been erroneously omitted, before the survey work. Several petitions were received and requests accommodated."

Further, he said that the entire process was conducted through government machinery in which about 1.3 lakh teachers were roped in. "The Indian Institute of Management, Bengaluru, also studied our survey and its methodology and has certified it," he pointed out.

The left-out population could be owing to migration for livelihood or locked houses that could not be surveyed despite multiple visits, Mr. Lingappa said.

"Enumerators in Bengaluru also had difficulties as gated communities did not allow them. In some houses, dogs were unleased. These were not deliberate lapses," he added.

He also acknowledged that the enumeration work was about 85% in Bengaluru owing to administrative and logistic issues. The former member said that outside Bengaluru, enumeration coverage was 99% to 100%.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil also pointed out that the national census also has a 3% lag, and nearly 95% population being covered reflected good work.

Commission sources also said that several castes that are in 2-A category and identified with their vocation, dropped the Lingayat tag during enumeration fearing losing out on reservation.

Similarly, some members of Beda Jangama, a sub-castes under Veerashaiva-Lingayats, may have not identified themselves with the community since they already have Scheduled Caste certificates, sources said. "If every community wants to inflate their population figures, then the State figures has to be increased, which then would actually make it unscientific," he said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Hegde, who submitted the report in 2024, said that the survey was conducted under the leadership of Deputy Commissioners.

"It was an objective survey. If some people have refused to give caste details or have hidden the caste while only providing sub caste for reservation purposes, the commission cannot be held responsible," he said.

Increase in numbers

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The H. Kantharaj Commission that conducted the caste census in 2015 identified 1,351 castes and sub castes from Karnataka. However, commission sources said that by the time the survey was completed, there were 1,821.

Explaining the increase, sources said that these new castes were of those who had migrated from other States. "A column to mark new castes had been given to enumerators. The new castes have been identified here and many of them could belong to backward classes in their States."

How many minorities?

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

About 91 lakh people out of the 5.98 crore (15.19% covered under the survey) belong to minority communities, in which Muslims and their 101 sub castes form the biggest chunk at 76.99 lakh or about 12.87% from about 15.37 lakh households surveyed.

Christians and their 57 sub sects are the second largest minority group with a population of 9.47 lakh from about 2.4 lakh households. They form 1.58% of the total population.

The Scheduled Castes Converted to Christians are about 12,865 or 0.022% of the population from 3,012 households. Anglo-Indians form about 0.002% of the population with 1,079 persons from 315 households.

Congress leaders divided on caste lines

Nagesh Prabhu
BENGALURU

After the Karnataka Cabinet accepted the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey (caste census) report, the ruling Congress government and the party seems divided on caste lines.

Given the role caste plays in electoral politics, Ministers and Congress MLAs, belonging to the Veerashaiva-Lingayat and Vokkaliga communities, have started issuing statements questioning the "scientific" basis of the voluminous report. Many have even disputed the population figures of the report and called for fresh surveys.

Though Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, a Kuruba himself and an OBC leader, defended the report, a few of his Cabinet colleagues are believed to have distanced themselves from the findings of the report. Leaders of both dominant communities have decided to collect views of MLAs before the scheduled special Cabinet meeting to be held on Thursday to discuss details of the report.

While KPCC chief D.K. Shivakumar, also the Deputy Chief Minister, held a meeting of MLAs belonging to the Vokkaliga community on Tuesday, Shamanur Shivashankarappa, All-India Veerashaiva Mahasabha president and Congress MLA, is expected to chair a meeting with legislators on Wednesday or Thursday morning. Mr. Shivashankarappa already opposed the report. The community has 56 legislators belonging to both the ruling Congress and the Opposition.

The Congress rode to power in 2023 with the support of the Veerashaiva-Lingayat and Vokkaliga communities. Out of the 137 Congress MLAs, the dominant castes have 60 legislators. While the Veerashaiva-Lingayat community has 37 MLAs, including Lingayat Raddi, the Vokkaliga community has 23 MLAS.

The OBC categories are represented by 21 MLAs including eight belonging to the Kuruba community. While there are 23 MLAs from the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes are represented by 14 MLAs. The Muslim community has 10 MLAs.

Transport Minister Ramalinga Reddy on Tuesday said: "We already held a meeting and have called another meeting of the community leaders on Saturday to verify the data." The report mentioned that the community has 7.5 lakh population.

Mr. Reddy said the community's district-wise data would be verified. If any lapses were found in the report, he said the government would be urged to correct it.

'Are you using caste census report to prevent DKS from becoming CM?'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Accusing Chief Minister Siddaramaiah of trying to use the caste census report to divert public attention from the tussle over the chief ministerial post, the Opposition BJP on Tuesday put out 12 posers to him, including whether he was using it to prevent transfer of power to Deputy Chief Minister D. K. Shivakumar as per the reported power-sharing pact.

In a statement here, Leader of Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok alleged that the Congress leaders themselves were of the view that the caste census report was being taken up to put Mr. Shivakumar in a tight spot.

Mr. Ashok maintained that there was a speculation within the Congress that the Chief Minister was trying to divert public attention as he was reportedly pulled up by the Congress high command during his recent Delhi visit on various issues, including the row over honey-trap allegations.

"We want to reiterate that the BJP is not against taking any measures for the uplift of oppressed communities. But we are opposed to any political game plan for using these communities as pawns for revival of individual political fortunes after being met with setbacks," he said.

Claiming that the caste census report was "unscientific", incomplete and irrelevant, Mr. Ashok said he was posing a slew of questions in that context. One of his questions was whether it was true that secretary of the commission had not signed the caste census report.

Among the other posers were: Is it true that the original report was missing though it had been kept in a sealed box? Why was the Kantharaju Commission report not accepted by Mr. Siddaramaiah in 2018 itself? Why the hurry for implementing this report the survey for which was conducted 10 years ago without visiting the houses of a large number of people? Is this survey still relevant?"

Questions were also raised on why the report was being taken up "suddenly" for discussion in the Cabinet without making efforts in the last 22 months to bring about a consensus, though Mr. Shivakumar and veteran Congress leader Shamanur Shivashankarappa had opposed it.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer(Ele.), Bommanahalli Zone, Begur Main Road, Bommanahalli, Bangalore - 560 068.

No:BBMP/EE/ELE/BHZ/TEND/01/2025-26 Date:15.04.2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Through GOK KPP Portal only) (Two Cover Tender)

The Executive Engineer(Ele), Bommanahalli Zone invites Item Rate tenders from eligible tenderers for the works detailed in the table below.

Sl. No.	Name of the work
1	Improvements to Lighting system on Lake's Path way coming under Bommanahalli Constituency. **(Reserved for SC) (Call-2)**. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 57.42** Lakhs. EMD: **Rs. 58,000/-**
2	Improvements to Lighting system on Lake's Path way coming under Bangalore South Constituency. **(Reserved for CAT-I) (Call-2)**. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 75.94** Lakhs. EMD: **Rs. 1,52,000/-**
3	Upgradation of Street Lights infrastructures by providing additional street light poles, Control panels and replacing UG cable / AB cable with other allied works in Kudlu ward No. 225 **(Reserved for Others) (Call-2)**. Amount put to tender: **Rs. 16.00** Lakhs. EMD: **Rs. 32,000/-**

1)Tender Documents may be downloaded from the KPP portal from **16.04.2025 onwards. 2)** Last Date for receipt of tenders: **23.04.2025 upto 4.00 p.m. 3)** Date of opening of Technical bids**: 24.04.2025 at 4.30 p.m. 4)** Date of opening of Financial bids**: 28.04.2025 at 11.30 a.m.** For further details, visit KPP portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** or contact office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Executive Engineer(Ele), Bommanahalli Zone.

TIDEL PARK LTD.
(An ISO 9001/14001/45001 Company)
No.4, Rajiv Gandhi Salai, Taramani, Chennai – 600 113
Ph: 044 2254 0500 / 501, Fax: 2254 1744 www.tidelpark.com / md@tidelpark.com

Tender No: TIDEL/2025-26/01

TIDEL Park Limited invites "E-Tender for Construction of IT Office Building, Ground Floor + 4 Floors + Terrace, Including Civil Construction, HVAC, Electrical HT/LT, Elevator, IBMS, Fire Protection, Plumbing, Structural Façade, Landscaping, STP, WTP and External Works at **Tiruvannamalai**."

For more details and participation in the above e-Tender, please visit the website **www.tntenders.gov.in**. Last date for online submission of duly filled in tender documents is **3.00 p.m. on 15.05.2025.** TIDEL Park Limited reserves the right to accept /reject any one/all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

DIPR/1536TENDER/2025

Managing Director

KUVEMPU UNIVERSITY
Vishwavidyalaya Karyalaya,
Jnana sahyadri, Shankaraghatta - 577 451
Shivamogga Dist. Karnataka.
email : eekuvempu@gmail.com Phone No: 08282 257078

No: KU/ENGG/EE/DM/TENDER/31/2025-26 Date : 11.04.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION (Two cover system)

Item wise tenders are invited from eligible registered contractors through KPPP portal separately for One work at Kuvempu University Sahyadri college campus, Shivamogga. The necessary details can be obtained from e-procurement website https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in or from the office of the Executive Engineer during working hours.

No: **1.** Name of work : **Renovation and Up-gradation of selected buildings in the Sahyadri Science College campus Shivamogga. KVU/2024-25/BD/WORK_INDENT8.** Amount put to tender in Rs. : **80,04,220.00** Amount of EMD in Rs.: **1,60,500.00** (1) The Last Date for Tender Queries/Clarifications **- 29-04-2025 upto 5.00 PM.**(2)The Last Date for receipt of tenders **- 02-05-2025 upto 5.30 PM.** (3) The Date for Opening of Technical Bids **- 03-05-2025 upto 5.30 PM.** (4) The Date for Opening of Financial Bid **- 05-05-2025 at 11.00 AM**

DIPR/SMG/No.61-04
zenkar/2025-26

Sd/- Registrar
Kuvempu University

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Bangalore South Division, Amruthnagara, Konanakunte Main Road, Soudhamini Layout, Bengaluru-62.

No: BBMP/EE/BSD/TEND/02/2025-26 Date: 15.04.2025

INVITATION FOR SHORT TERM TENDER
(Single Cover Tender)(Only Through KPP Portal only)

The Executive Engineer, (Bangalore South Division), BBMP, Bangalore-62, invites tenders from eligible contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with KPWD/ CPWD/BWSSB/Railways/MES/National Highway or any state government organizations for the construction of works detailed below in the table.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work
1	Establishment of Temporary Control Room in Ward No.202, 203, 204 & 205 in Uttarahalli Sub Division for the year 2025-26. **Approx.Value of Work:** Rs. 20.00 Lakhs. **EMD Amount:** Rs. 50,000/-. **Period of Completion:** 120 Days. **Category/Reserved for:** Others.
2	Establishment of Temporary Control Room in Ward No.206, 207, 208 & 209 in Anjanapura Sub Division for the year 2025-26. **Approx.Value of Work:** Rs. 20.00 Lakhs. **EMD Amount:** Rs. 50,000/-. **Period of Completion:** 120 Days. **Category/Reserved for:** Others.
3	Establishment of Temporary Control Room in Ward No.210, 211, 212 & 225 in Begur Sub Division for the year 2025-26. **Approx.Value of Work:** Rs. 20.00 Lakhs. **EMD Amount:** Rs. 50,000/-. **Period of Completion:** 120 Days. **Category/Reserved for:** Others.

Calendar of Events: 1) Tender documents can be downloaded from the GOK KPP Portal Website: https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in (2) Last date & time for uploading the filled Tender Document: **23.04.2025 upto 4:00 p.m.** (3) Date of Technical Bid opening of Tenders: **24.04.2025 by 4:30 p.m.**

Further details can be had from the office of the above during office hours on all working days or visit KPP portal website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Bangalore South Division, BBMP

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

N.S.VARADACHARI (93), Retired Officer, Accounts Dept,The Hindu, Chennai passed away on 15-April-2025. Address: 20/10, First Cross Street, Third Avenue, Ashok Nagar, Chennai-600083. Contact: 9840493432

BIRTHDAY REMEMBRANCE

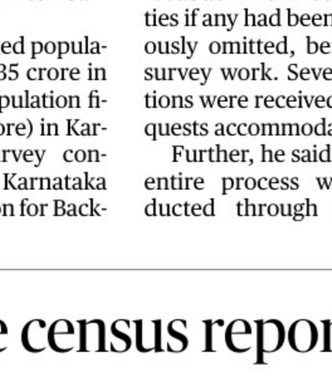
97th BIRTH ANNIVERSARY

Smt.T.K.D. SAROJA
16.04.1928 - 15.01.2022
Wife of late
Sri.T.K. Duraiswami,
Retd. Sr. Accounts Officer,
AG's Office, Madras,
(Prathama Acharya Purusha, T.T.D.), Daughter of late Smt.M S Pattammal and late Sri.M Singarachari, Advocate, Chittoor (A.P.)
Fondly remembered by :
Smt.Vijaya & Sri.N.S. Mohanram
Smt.Vatsala & Sri.V A Raghu
Sri.T.K. Balaji & Smt.Sheela Balaji
Smt.Mala & Sri.S. Ramakrishnan
Brothers-in-Law
Sisters-in-Law

Grand Children,
Great Grand Children &
Great Great Grand Children

DEATH

In Loving Memory Of



10 Nov 1928 - 15 Apr 2025

With deep sorrow, we inform you that our beloved mother,

Smt Nirmala Kanwar Galada
W/o Lt Shri B.Abirchand Galada

Passed away peacefully on 15.04.2025.
Utthavana 16.04.2025 - 10:31am @ Jain Temple, GN Chetty Road, T.Nagar

Her warmth, grace, and strength touched the lives of many, and she will be dearly missed by all who knew her.

We kindly request you to keep her in your thoughts and prayers.

Uttamchand Mahender Surendra Lalith
Manish Naveen Kunal Abishek Akshay Hursh
Yash Krishav Jay Galada and Family

TB Jewellery, Golden Moments Jewellery,
Aber TB Jewellery, AN Ornaments

Lalith Galada - Ph: +91 94440 34718

Eyes donated to Sankara Nethralaya, Chennai - 6

Gig workers Bill: What stayed and what changed

Karnataka Platform-based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Bill, 2024, if passed, would make the State the second in the country to introduce such a legislation, after Rajasthan

EXPLAINER

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

The Karnataka Cabinet, on April 11, cleared the much-awaited Karnataka Platform-based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Bill, 2024, which is now expected to be introduced as an Ordinance. If passed, this would make Karnataka the second State in the country to introduce legislation for the welfare of platform-based gig workers after Rajasthan.

Why legislation?

Reports suggest that there are around 2 lakh platform-based gig workers in Bengaluru working with companies such as Swiggy, Zomato, Uber, Ola, Urban Company, Porter, Amazon, Flipkart and so on. An evolving and nascent sector, the gig economy is expected to create 23.5 million jobs in India by 2030 as per a 2022 NITI Aayog report.

Platform-based gig workers, who are not full-time employees and are often referred to as 'partners' by the aggregators, enjoy a certain degree of work flexibility unlike jobs in the formal sector.

However, given the employment is outside the traditional employer-employee relationship, workers do not have the safety of labour protection laws. Multiple instances of worker neglect and exploitation have been reported over the years necessitating the need for legislation to ensure the protection and welfare of the workers.

Although the Central government, in 2020, passed the Code on Social Security (CoSS) which defined gig workers for the first time in India, it is yet to be implemented. In 2023, the Congress government which was then in power in Rajasthan enacted the Rajasthan Platform-Based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Act, 2023 just before the state elections. The subsequent BJP government in the State left the law unimplemented.

The timeline

It was in June 2024 that the Siddaramaiah-led government first published the draft of the Karnataka Platform-based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Bill. According to officials, the Bill was drafted after several meetings with various stakeholders.

While it was expected to be tabled in the monsoon session, industry bodies such as NASSCOM and IAMAI representing various tech companies registered strong opposition against several clauses of the draft Bill and demanded more time to submit their feedback. Following this, the draft Bill was put on the back burner, much to the dismay of gig worker unions, who have since been pushing for its passage at the earliest.

In the first week of April, the top brass of the Karnataka government met with Leader of the Opposition Rahul Gandhi, with whom the Bill was discussed. Legislation for gig workers was one of the promises of Congress before the general elections as well as the state elections in Karnataka. Following the meeting, Karnataka Labour Minister Santosh Lad confirmed that the Bill had been finalized and would soon be passed. On April 11, the Karnataka Cabinet cleared the Bill.

The key clauses

The Karnataka Platform-based Gig Workers Bill defines a gig worker as a person who performs work or participates in a work arrangement that results in a given rate of payment, based on the terms and conditions laid out in such contract and includes all piece-rate work, and whose work is sourced through a platform, in the services specified in the Schedule - I.

The Bill that emphasizes the rights of gig workers aims to create a welfare fund for the workers, places obligations on aggregators, and proposes a welfare fee of 1%-5% of the payout to the worker during each transaction. All sum received will go to the welfare fund for the workers.

The Bill mandates platforms to enter into transparent and fair contracts with the workers and stresses on the need for transparency with respect to the automated monitoring and decision-making system. FILE PHOTO

A gig workers' welfare board will be established to ensure registration of workers by the platforms, welfare fee collection, and implementation of social security schemes. Aggregators are required to furnish their database of all gig workers to the board.

The proposed Payment and Welfare Fee Verification System (PWFVS) will track every payment made to the workers and the welfare fee deducted by the aggregators.

How the Bill helps

The platforms are required to provide a work environment that is safe and without risk to the health of the worker and ensure that the worker has adequate periods of rest and access to sanitary and rest facilities.

Addressing arbitrary termination, which has been one of the major concerns of workers, the Bill notes that no worker can be terminated without a valid written reason and prior notice of 14 days, except in instances where they have caused bodily harm.

The Bill also mandates platforms to enter into transparent and fair contracts with the workers and stresses on the need for transparency with respect to the automated monitoring and decision-making system.

It proposes a two-tiered grievance redressal mechanism wherein the worker is required to approach the internal dispute resolution committee first. If the committee fails to provide an 'Action Taken Report' in 14 days or the worker is unsatisfied, the grievance will be forwarded to the board.

The objections

Following the publishing of the draft Bill in 2024, industry bodies, the Department of Electronics, IT-BT and Science & Technology, and Commerce & Industries department had raised several objections.

The key concerns included how the bill defined 'gig worker', welfare fee per transaction, duplicate obligation for aggregators once CoSS 2020 is implemented, clarity on how the welfare fund would be utilised, grievance redressal mechanism under the Industrial Disputes Act and criminal liability on platforms for non-compliance, among others.

While CoSS 2020 defined a gig worker as a person who performs work or participates in a work arrangement and earns from such activities outside of traditional employer-employee relationships, the Karnataka bill did not explicitly mention that the gig work was outside traditional work relationships. Hence, it was demanded that the bill align its definition of gig worker with that of CoSS instead of creating a parallel system which equates gig workers to full time employees.

Reasons for objections

A note from the IT-BT department argued that the welfare fee on a per-transaction basis was not suitable for all business models. It contended that the fee must be 1-2% of a platform's state-specific turnover or 5% of gig workers' payout, whichever is lower. To avoid duplicate obligations for platforms to contribute to both state and central funds, it also demanded a sunset clause or transition mechanism that addressed this issue once CoSS was implemented.

The previous version of the Bill proposed a grievance redressal mechanism under the Industrial Disputes Act. This was strongly opposed citing that the Act was applicable only to workmen covered under conventional labour laws.

Clarity on welfare fund utilisation was sought, and objections were raised to the central transaction information and management system (CTIMS), citing the compliance burden on platform companies. The draft Bill's demand for platforms to disclose their algorithmic decision-making process was also opposed, contending that the anonymised nature of it was their competitive edge.

There were also objections regarding the 14-day notice period for workers before termination.

Commerce and industries department argued that wide ranging powers to the state government allowing it to interfere with the algorithms, contracts and day to day management of platforms was against the spirit of ease of doing business.

The changes made

Following the objections, a few amendments were made to the draft Bill.

The grievance redressal mechanism was removed from the ambit of the Industrial Disputes Act, and criminalisation for non-compliance was ruled out. While the Bill retained the 14-day notice period, a provision was added that it was not required in situations where bodily harm was caused.

The Bill gave more clarity regarding the welfare fee compared to the initial draft which was ambiguous regarding the deductions.

In its response to the objections made, the labour department noted that rules would be framed separately for platforms, taking into consideration sector-specific business models and without disturbing financial sustainability, cross-subsidisation and job creation in the industry.

It also pointed out that a sunset clause was introduced to the Bill and platforms need not contribute to CoSS if they are already contributing under the state bill.

Regarding the objection to CTIMS, the department argued that aggregators are already tracking and storing data at an individual level. CTIMS was changed to Welfare Fee Verification System (WFVS), which only requires integration with the API and no additional compliance, it said.

The Bill adhered to its definition of 'gig worker' noting that it assumed employer-employee relationship only to the extent of providing basic minimum social security benefits and clarified that traditional labour laws do not apply to the sector.

"Although there is flexibility of work for workers, platforms enter into contracts, define their payout, allocate and control work and in some cases provide benefits and insurance. So, ethe mployer-employee relationship exists to an extent. The bill addresses this unique nature of evolving relationships in the labour market by using a definition of Gig worker without establishing any explicit partnership status," noted the response from Labour Department.

The Bill aims to create a welfare fund for the workers, places obligations on aggregators, and proposes a welfare fee of 1%-5% of the payout to the worker during each transaction. FILE PHOTO

Bengaluru musician's tribute to Foo Fighters today

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

With an aim to bring back the old-school rock energy of the early 2000s Bangalore, city musician Blesswin Winco will perform a tribute to Foo Fighters, the American rock band, in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

"There was something electric about that scene. It felt alive, raw, and deeply connected to the music. I feel like that's missing in today's live music culture, and this is my small way of bringing that vibe back," Mr. Winco said in a note.

This is the second time Mr. Winco – a member of the popular country music band, Mudroad– has attempted something like this. Last year, he played a tribute for TOTO, another American rock band, to a sold-out venue.

While Mr. Winco will be on lead guitars, the other band members include Ashish Borde on bass, Jason Sharat on drums, Eric Gerald on guitars, and Anand Murali on keys.

Students of Bethany High School, where Mr. Winco works as a music consultant, will do an opening set.

Calling the tribute "a passion project", Mr. Winco said he would like to turn this into an annual series by paying tribute to a different band or artist that has inspired him in his music journey.

The Foo Fighters tribute will happen at The Raft, Koramangala, on April 16 from 7.30 p.m. onwards. Tickets can be booked through Razorpay.

Blesswin Winco

BIAL official wins international award for research paper on artificial intelligence

Introduced in 2009, the ACI Asia-Pacific & Middle East Young Executive Award is a competition that encourages young talent to contribute solutions for the entire airport experience

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An official of Bangalore International Airport Limited (BIAL) has won the ACI Asia-Pacific and Middle East Young Executive Award 2025.

Naga Satyanarayana Vattipalli bagged the award for a submission at the ACI Asia-Pacific and Middle East's annual research paper competition.

The topic of this year's programme was 'How Artificial Intelligence will Transform Airports and Customer Experience'.

Adoption of AI

In his paper, Mr. Vattipalli explored the opportunities and challenges associated with airports adopting Artificial Intelligence and related technologies to improve the overall passenger experience, regulatory and ethical considerations, sustainability, and environmental impact.

"With the advent of rapid development of technologies, AI is being applied to provide innovation throughout the entire airport experience. The exceptional research papers bring us new visions into the role of AI in aviation, and its potential in enhancing airport operations and passenger experience at large," said Stefano Baronci, Director General of ACI Asia-Pacific & Middle East.

BIAL operates Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru. FILE PHOTO

The panel of judges also awarded Honourable Mention to Patrick Su from Airport Authority Hong Kong on his research paper entitled 'Revolutionising Aviation: The Impact of Artificial Intelligence on Airports and Passenger Experience'. His research paper examines the impact of AI on airports and customer experience.

Innovative solutions

Introduced in 2009, the ACI Asia-Pacific & Middle East Young Executive Award (YEA) is an annual research paper competition that encourages young talent in the Asia-Pacific and Middle East regions to contribute innovative solutions for the entire airport experience.

This is the second consecutive year that an official of BIAL, which operates the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru, has bagged this award. Manoj Kumar Ashok Kumar won the award in 2024 for his paper, which emphasised the urgent need for airports to invest in strong defence mechanisms to protect operational technologies from cyber attacks. His research highlights the importance of implementing advanced cybersecurity measures within the airport community.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 16, 1975

Steps Needed to Boost Silk Exports to Holland

Bangalore, April 15: The participation of the Indian silk industry at the recent international spring fair in Utrecht, Holland, has definitely helped both importers and consumers in the European country to appreciate the value of the Indian material, according to the Central Silk Board. The Board said Holland's Trade and Industries Promotion Department had been very much impressed with the range of silk fabrics exhibited by the Board.

According to the Board, it has become apparent that a very good market can be created in Holland for Tasar silk fabrics which, however, are the least-known till now in that country.

Committee for J.P.'s Tour Formed

Bangalore, April 15: In connection with the forthcoming visit of Mr. Jaya Prakash Narayan to Karnataka next month a reception committee has been set up with Mr. Kadidal Manjappa, former Chief Minister, as its Chairman.

Mr. Manjappa told pressmen here to-day that Mr. K. S. Hegde, former Judge of the Supreme Court and Mr. B. N. Gupta would be the Vice-Chairman and Treasurer respectively of the committee.

Mr. Manjappa said though the initiative for setting up the reception committee came in the beginning from the Janatha Sangarsha Samithi, the reception committee now formed did not owe allegiance to a political party or association but was an independent body.

Hand over fist (Clockwise from left) Mona Mehta, Bhavana Shah, Annie Philip and Lakshmi Mohan are part of the Tocco team founded by Reshma Suresh (below). SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Packaging the taste of home

Tocco is an online platform which showcases homemade regional goodies — snacks, meal accompaniments and spice mixes — made by home chefs from across the country

Shilpa Nair Anand

Remember that craving for homemade pickle, mulagu podi, chammanthi podi, poha, cookies and chivda when you were away from home? If you live or have lived away from home – either as a student or for work – you know it. And it was something Mumbai-based engineer Reshma Suresh felt intensely when she moved away from home in Kochi to work in Mumbai. Those care packets from home, with pickles, mulagu podi, chammanthi podi (chutney powder) and banana and jackfruit chips were eagerly looked forward to.

Although some of these or their iterations would be available in supermarkets and online e-commerce platforms, "it would lack the emotion of 'mom or dad' made food," says Reshma. Despite the convenience, takeout would seldom be 'authentic'. The big question – would it all be hygienically prepared? For instance, what of the quality of the ingredients?

"Food is after all an emotion," says Reshma, the founder of Tocco, a 'social commerce' platform that sells home-cooked snacks and meal accompaniments, which it sources from a network of vetted home chefs sprinkled across the country. "My career has nothing to do with food; I worked in tech-building in the health-care sector. But food has become my passion project," she says over the phone from Mumbai.

Home made snacks

A combination of factors – a weekend project making small batches of banana chips, which grew to become the plantain chips brand Meengurry Memories in 2021, and a hiatus from work led to the idea and subsequently a prototype of Tocco in 2022. With the idea taking root, she asked family – mother and aunt – to send items that they made in their kitchens: chammanthi podi, prawn-mango pickle, veppila katti... as a test run, selling them to her Meengurry clients.

Over the next year, the idea of an e-commerce platform for home chefs exclusively selling home-made items crystallised and, finally, in 2023, Tocco was soft launched.

Several months of homework went into getting Tocco up and running. 'Packing nostalgia' has strict parameters – it should be made in a home kitchen without preservatives with a shelf life of between 20 to 30 days. "Our selection process is thorough. We cannot afford to compromise. The processes are stringent as are the terms of onboarding. We look at photographs and videos of the kitchen – the space, cleanliness – besides sampling the product and keeping track of the ingredients," adds Reshma. All home chefs are FSSAI-certified.

> Our selection process is thorough. The processes are stringent as are the terms of onboarding.
>
> **RESHMA SURESH**
> Founder, Tocco

Once the homechef and their kitchen is vetted, next comes tasting by a panel comprising existing customers, professional chefs, and the quality control team. In two years, Tocco has built a base of around 15,000 customers, and on boarded 30-odd home chefs from Kerala, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Punjab and growing.

Bengaluru-based Annie Philip bakes plum cakes. The home baker used to give her cakes to family and friends but never thought of taking the commercial route until Reshma, the daughter of family friends approached her.

"There is no pressure to be constantly working, plus my regular routine is not affected as I work at my pace; the cakes have a 30-day shelf life which also eases pressure. How much more comfortable can it get?" she asks. Last December alone she sold more than 200 cakes.

Reshma's mother's sister, Lakshmi Mohan, also a homemaker, who was one of the first people to become a part of Tocco says, "I was anyway making chutney podi for my kids, so it was not too different when Reshma asked me to join her. I can do it at my own pace and I do everything myself." The 60-year-old economics graduate has never worked but she is enjoying herself.

Although their products comprise snacks, pickles, and podis, their biggest market is snacks. There is no fixed quantity of snacks each home chef sells monthly, on an average it is around 10 to 20 kilograms, in the case of pickles it is 10 kilos a week. "The monthly income of each depends on the quantity they sell; during Christmas time one of our home chefs who makes plum cakes made close to ₹1 lakh. Our focus is not quantity but quality," says Reshma.

Listening to these women, one comes away feeling that this is not just about the money. It is about being able to use their time and skills, and feeling good about it.

So what does the name Tocco stand for ? "Tocco is The Orange Candy Co (like the nostalgic orange candy we all had growing up?) It also means touch in Italian, symbolising the touch of our parents as they prepare food!"

CITYBEATS

Flavours of Kerala

APRIL 21 TO 24

Sara Jacob of 'Nair on Fire fame', will be in Bengaluru with a new menu that will showcase her signature style of presenting heirloom recipes such as red cowpeas cutlet, *kizhi porotta* with jackfruit *peralan, nasrani* lamb stew, Malabar chicken wings, jaggery *kozhukatta, palada payasam, paruppu payasam* and more. *Only for dinner, at Lush-Renaissance, Bengaluru Race Course Hotel. Call 98861 95617.*

Just for summer

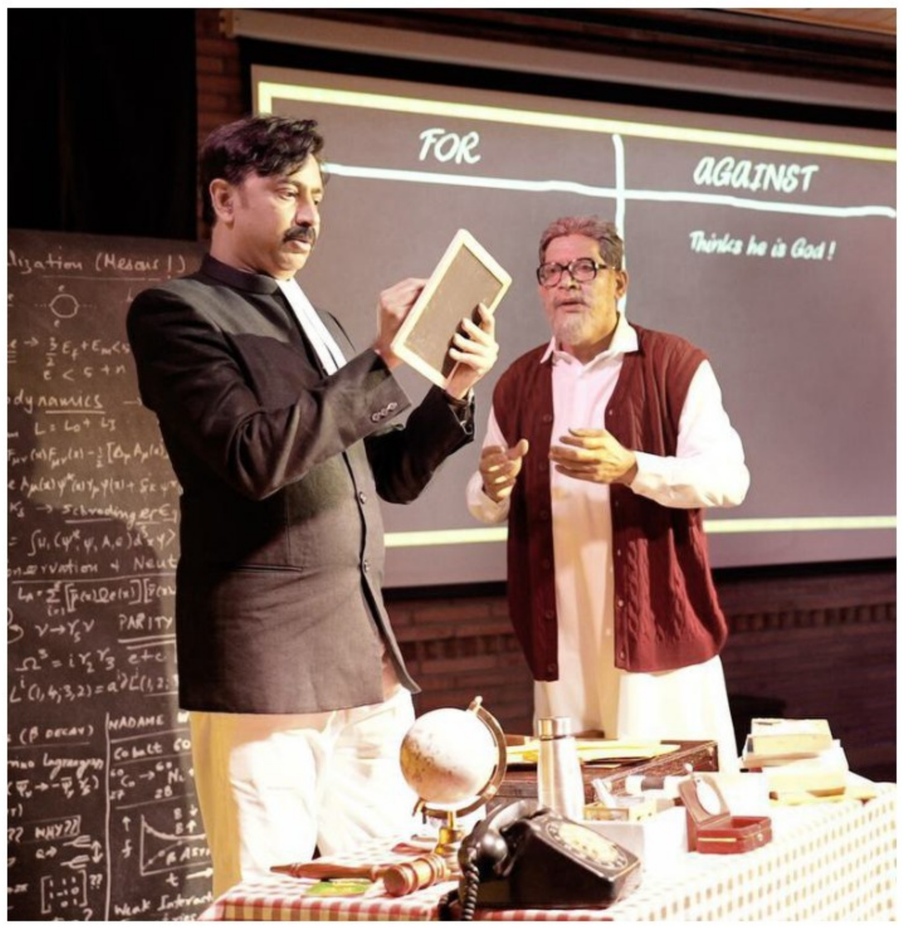
APRIL 19

Jo Chaahe Mango, is a two-day mango festival, organised by Phoenix Mall Of Asia. Enjoy over 50 mango-infused treats, desserts and beverages, along with games, activities and live music, as well as a mango-eating competition. There will also be a marketplace of mango-inspired goodies for those who want to indulge in retail therapy. *Tickets on BookMyShow. At Phoenix Mall of Asia, 4pm onwards.*

All hooped in

APRIL 20

The Yard will host a hula hoop workshop with Aditi Bhat, where one can learn to move, play and reconnect with your body. This session will guide participants through the basics of hooping using games, partner activities and simple follow-along drills. A few tricks and short choreographies will also be taught. *From 9am, at The Yard, Doddanakundi Industrial Area 2. Tickets on District by Zomato.*



Theatre meets science

Praveen Sudevan

With his new production, *The Trial of Abdus Salam*, author and playwright Nilanjan Choudhury continues to explore the subgenre of what he calls "science theatre" – where complex ideas of physics collide with human drama, and scientists emerge as conflicted, charismatic protagonists. His works do not merely explain scientific theory; it stages it. Following *The Square Root of a Sonnet*, which delved into the life of the Indian-American theoretical physicist Subramaniam Chandrasekhar (who was awarded the 1983 Nobel Prize), Nilanjan now turns his attention to another South Asian genius: the Pakistani physicist Abdus Salam.

Salam, considered the first Muslim to win a Nobel Prize in Physics, remains an under-recognised figure despite his monumental contributions to modern science. "Many are not aware of Abdus Salam's existence," says Nilanjan. "It's a shame, because he's probably among the greatest scientific geniuses to emerge from Asia. His story is both inspiring and heartbreaking."

The Trial of Abdus Salam is not a biographical drama in the traditional sense. Staged as an imagined courtroom drama, the play sees Salam, in the final hour of his life, facing a prosecutor who takes on the voices of various people from his past: his father, colleagues, lovers, political figures and detractors. Among them are Indira Gandhi, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, and even voices from within the conservative Islamic establishment that labelled Salam a heretic. The story unfolds as a dramatic interrogation of the man, his science, and the state that ultimately rejected him.

"In theatre, conflict is everything," says Nilanjan, "Salam's life was full of it. He found no contradiction between his faith and his scientific work. But the external world saw things differently. That made him both a visionary and a tragic figure."

Born in pre-Partition India in a small village in Punjab, Salam was raised in a modest household and showed signs of prodigious intellect from an early age. He went on to develop foundational theories in particle physics, particularly the unification of the weak nuclear force and the electromagnetic force – work that led to what is now called the Standard Model of Particle Physics. But his identity as an Ahmadiyya Muslim, a sect considered heretical by mainstream Pakistani Islam, meant that his contributions were erased in his home country. Even the epitaph on his grave in Rabwah, Pakistan, had the word "Muslim" scratched out by state decree.

"He was deeply wounded by the rejection," says Nilanjan, who has been researching Salam's life since 2017. "And yet, he never stopped being in love with his country, or his faith. That tension makes him fascinating."

> I want to evoke a sense of wonder without requiring a physics degree.
>
> **NILANJAN CHOUDHURY**
> playwright

Science fiction A scene from *The Trial of Abdus Salam*. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

While his plays do not shy away from heavy scientific material (*The Square Root of a Sonnet* featured a 30-minute sequence visualising black hole formation), Nilanjan is careful to balance the cerebral with the emotional. "Science is important," he says, "But it's the drama and the emotional arcs that give the play life."

In *The Trial of Abdus Salam*, the science is denser, delving into topics like symmetry-breaking, particle mass, and the elusive Higgs boson, which Salam's theories helped predict. The challenge, Choudhury says, lies in presenting these abstract ideas in accessible, theatrical forms. "I want to evoke a sense of wonder without requiring a physics degree. It's about lighting a spark, not filling a bucket."

The play also resists easy classification – neither pure docudrama nor pure fiction. "I take liberties with imagined conversations and characters," he says, "But everything is rooted in historical or emotional truth. If Salam is shown as being proud or hurt, I want to ensure it's backed by documentation or strong inference."

For Nilanjan, who juggles corporate life with writing and theatre, this genre is not just a creative choice. "Why don't we write plays about our own scientists?" he asked himself. Scientists from Asia have stories that are just as grand, just as moving, and far less told compared to their Western counterparts. That is what Nilanjan is trying to change."

After *The Trial of Abdus Salam,* he is working on a third science play, centred on India's first woman physicist, Bibha Chowdhuri, as part of what he envisions as a trilogy on South Asian scientists.

The Trial of Abdus Salam *(1 hour 40 minutes, for ages 16 and above) will be staged at Ranga Shankara on April 18. Tickets, ₹350 onwards on BookMyShow.*

A sense of belonging

A contemporary dance performance, *Am I Two?* will be held at the Bangalore International Centre on April 17, exploring the struggles and strengths that define women's lives across different social contexts. Created and performed by Berlin-based artists Hannah Heyde and Vasundhara Srivastava, the piece blends movement, spoken word and multimedia, to dissect the societal structures that shape female identity, privilege, and resistance.

At its core, *Am I Two?* confronts the tensions between women from contrasting realities, questioning how societal expectations, cultural norms, and systemic inequalities influence their lived experiences.

The performance navigates themes of belonging, displacement, and solidarity, using a mix of German and English dialogue (with subtitles for accessibility) alongside evocative sound design and video projections.

This layered approach is supposed to create an immersive experience, inviting audiences to reflect on the invisible burdens women carry.

Vasundhara, an Indian contemporary dancer and movement artiste, infuses her work with a post-colonial and feminist perspective, examining historical oppression and generational trauma. Her collaborator, Hannah, merges dynamic choreography with visual storytelling, drawing from her training in ballet, modern dance, and jazz. Together, they have devised a performance that is both intimate and politically charged.

Originally developed during their residency at Berlin's ada Studios (2022), *Am I Two?* has been staged in Germany and now makes its way to India, offering Bengaluru's art enthusiasts a chance to engage with its themes. The production has been supported by the Berlin Senate Department for Culture and Social Cohesion, underscoring its cultural significance.

The soundscape features voice-overs from the artistes and collaborator Jessica Gaynor, while video installations incorporate contributions from an international group of artistes, creating a mosaic of global feminist voices.

On April 17, from 7pm to 8pm at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur. Entry free. Seats are limited and will be allocated on a first-come basis upon RSVP.

Exploring womanhood Hannah Heyde and Vasundhara Srivastava. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Homeopathy college sanctioned for Chittoor dist.

The Hindu Bureau
VIJAYAWADA

Following a major push from the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) governments at the Centre and the State towards popularising AYUSH systems of medicine, a new private homeopathy college has been sanctioned for Chittoor district.

According to an official release on Tuesday, Minister for Health, Education and Family Welfare Y. Satya Kumar Yadav has approved the setting up of a homeopathy college at Muthirevula village in Puthalapattu mandal in the district. The private college, which will be run by the Srinivasa Education Society, will bear the name 'Venkateswara Homeopathy Medical College and Hospital' and will admit 100 students every year. The society already has a 50-bed hospital.

The Minister approved the proposal after a detailed examination of the availability of required infrastructure and other amenities, according to the press release.

At present, there are seven homeopathy colleges functioning in the State with an intake of 500 undergraduate students annually.

ED set to probe pay-off case against Pinarayi's daughter

Copy of final complaint filed by Serious Fraud Investigation Office handed over to ED officials; agency to inquire whether the accused received any proceeds of crime and laundered the money

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) will shortly probe the money laundering angle in the Cochin Minerals and Rutile Limited pay-off case in which T. Veena, daughter of Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, has been named one of the accused.

A copy of the final complaint filed by the Serious Fraud Investigation Office (SFIO) in the case was handed over to ED officials on Tuesday.

Sathyaveer Singh, an Assistant Director at the Kochi unit of the ED, received a copy of the complaint from the court on the day.

Veena

The ED will inquire whether the accused have received any proceeds of crime and laundered the money. The preliminary task of the agency will be to find out whether any offence under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act has been made out.

The agency had earlier approached the Additional District Court 7, special court for trying offences booked by the SFIO, for a copy of the final complaint. It obtained the report and list of documents and witnesses on the day. It will again approach the court for receiving copies of the other documents submitted by the SFIO in the case, sources said.

It's probably for the first time that Ms. Veena is coming under the radar of the ED, though she had earlier been probed by the SFIO.

The special court had earlier taken cognizance of the final complaint after it found that a *prima facie* case has been made out against the respondents, including Ms. Veena.

The SFIO has arraigned Ms. Veena as the 11th accused in the case. The allegation of the investigation agency is that Ms. Veena and her now defunct IT firm Exalogic had received fraudulent payment of ₹2.7 crore from the CMRL.

Earlier, CMRL had contended that the money was paid to Exalogic for consultancy services. Managing director of the CMRL Sasidharan Kartha is the other accused in the case.

The SFIO had made Mr. Kartha and his son, Saran Kartha, and some of the company officials as accused in two more pay-off cases. The special court will shortly issue summons to all the accused in the case.

Categorisation of SCs into 3 groups in A.P. gets approval

G.V.R. Subba Rao
VIJAYAWADA

The Andhra Pradesh State Cabinet, chaired by Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu, on Tuesday approved the draft Ordinance to implement the sub-categorisation of the Scheduled Castes (SCs) in the State.

Aimed at integrated and equitable development of the sub-castes, the Cabinet approved the classification of the 59 SC communities in the State into three categories based on their population, backwardness, and social cohesion.

Addressing the media at the Secretariat, Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu said the Cabinet approved the sub-categorisation and an Ordinance would be issued soon.

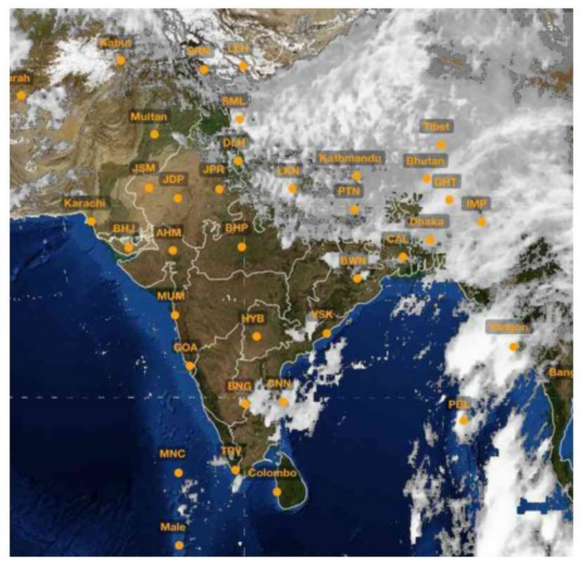
The government would also issue a District Selection Committee (DSC) notification to fill the teacher posts, and the SC sub-categorisation would be applicable to it.

Social Welfare Minister Dola Balaveeranjaneya Swamy said 12 castes were brought under Group-I, and 1% reservation was earmarked for them. Similarly, 18 castes that form part of Group-II would get 6.5% reservation. The third group comprised of 29 castes with 7.5% reservation, he said.

"The Ordinance is aimed at ensuring equitable access to education and job opportunities among the SC communities," the Minister said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Wednesday: Heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Assam and Meghalaya. Thundersquall with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim, West Bengal, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu and Kerala

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	35.5	24.2	Kozhikode	—	36.4	26.0
Ahmedabad	—	42.3	26.4	Kurnool	—	40.4	26.7
Aizawl	1	33.1	19.1	Lucknow	—	36.3	23.4
Allahabad	—	36.2	22.6	Madurai	—	37.5	25.6
Bengaluru	6.2	34.0	21.9	Mangaluru	1	34.1	22.7
Bhopal	—	39.5	24.8	Mumbai	—	36.2	24.5
Bhubaneswar	—	35.4	25.4	Mysuru	—	34.0	22.0
Chandigarh	—	35.9	23.9	New Delhi	—	37.9	24.0
Chennai	—	36.0	27.3	Patna	11	33.6	21.5
Coimbatore	—	36.5	22.2	Port Blair	—	31.0	25.2
Dehradun	—	33.6	19.9	Puducherry	—	34.2	27.7
Gangtok	—	20.6	13.5	Pune	—	42.7	24.7
Goa	—	36.0	27.0	Raipur	—	39.2	25.3
Guwahati	—	32.1	22.4	Ranchi	5	30.7	17.6
Hubballi	—	38.0	22.0	Shillong	1.6	22.4	16.0
Hyderabad	—	37.4	24.7	Shimla	—	26.2	17.8
Imphal	—	28.8	18.6	Srinagar	—	30.4	11.2
Jaipur	—	38.4	25.4	Thiruvananthapuram	0.1	34.8	24.8
Kochi	10	33.4	24.4	Tiruchi	—	37.5	25.4
Kohima	—	24.0	16.6	Vijayawada	—	37.8	27.0
Kolkata	—	34.2	23.5	Visakhapatnam	—	35.2	28.5

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.10	.46	37	149	134	
Bengaluru	9	12	18	43	104	
Chennai	6	5	32	36	70	
Delhi	.16	.41	50	193	212	
Hyderabad	.64	.24	37	41	81	
Kolkata	8	.33	26	81	83	
Lucknow	6	.65	39	133	139	
Mumbai	.14	.58	15	58	118	
Pune	.11	.53	43	97	101	
Visakhapatnam	9	.33	17	52	75	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Byrnihat, Assam recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 305 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Rupnagar, Punjab recorded a healthy AQI score of 15

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

21.16 acres allotted to TCS in Vizag for 99 paise

G.V.R. Subba Rao
VIJAYAWADA

Minister for IT and Electronics, Nara Lokesh, has piloted the allotment of 21.16 acres in Visakhapatnam for Tata Consultancy Services (TCS) for a token price of 99 paise. Also, the State Cabinet on Tuesday approved the allotment of this 21.16 acres to TCS.

Mr. Lokesh visited Tata House in October last year and made a pitch for TCS to set up a large development centre in Andhra Pradesh. The company is to invest ₹1,370 crore in this unit to create 12,000 jobs.

Addressing a press conferenceon Tuesday, Water Resources Minister Nimmala Ramanaidu said the Cabinet has decided to allot lands to TCS/IT companies to encourage investments. If necessary, the land would be given for 99 paise. He, however, did not specifically say whether the land would be leased out or sold to the IT companies. This bold decision signals to the industry that A.P. is serious about attracting IT investments. In the past, Prime Minister Narendra Modi took Tata Motors to Sanand in Gujarat by allotting them land at 99 paise. This became a landmark moment for the auto industry in Gujarat.

The Cabinet approved the proposals made by the State Investment Promotion Board (SIPB) on April 10. The proposals made by the SIPB with regard to allotment of land to the companies, giving permissions, providing basic amenities and formulating necessary guidelines for giving subsidies. The SIPB till now has given its nod for ₹4.62 lakh investments to create over 4.23 lakh jobs.

The Cabinet cleared the proposal to allot 21.6 acres at IT Hill Number 3 for TCS. Similarly, the expansion of the steel plant at Vizianagaram by the Maha Maya Industries, the metal manufacturing unit at Sri City in Tirupati and the establishment of a data centre at Visakhapatnam are also approved.

INBRIEF

YSRCP leader switches to NDA ahead of GVMC no-trust meet

In a significant development ahead of the no-confidence motion against Mayor G. Hari Venkata Kumari in the Greater Visakhapatnam Municipal Corporation (GVMC) Council, YSR Congress Party (YSRCP) leader Behera Bhaskar Rao has met leaders from the National Democratic Alliance here, and announced his decision to join the Jana Sena Party soon. Two more YSRCP corporators, including son of a senior YSRCP leader from Gajuwaka, are also reportedly in talks with the NDA leaders.

Desecration of Ambedkar statue in Kakinada sparks row

Tension prevailed at Sankavaram village in Annavaram police limits in Kakinada district of Andhra Pradesh on Tuesday as miscreants reportedly desecrated a statue of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Villagers staged protest in front of the statue, demanding arrest of the culprits. On being alerted, the Peddapuram police rushed to the spot. "Miscreants garlanded the statue with footwear, which were removed on Tuesday. Investigation is on," Peddapuram Deputy Superintendent of Police D. Srihari Raju told *The Hindu*. Later, the local residents called off their protest and demanded speedy investigation.

YouTuber held for flying drone over Tirumala temple

In a security breach, a drone was flown over the Tirumala temple on Tuesday. According to reports, Anshuman Thareja, a YouTuber hailing from Rajasthan, operated the drone for around 10 minutes, allegedly recording the temple and its surroundings. The police have taken Thareja into custody and launched an investigation. The devotee's antecedents are yet to be made public and authorities are working to determine the motive behind the act.

Tamil Nadu govt. announces high-level committee to strengthen State autonomy

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin on Tuesday announced in the Legislative Assembly the formation of a three-member high-level committee to review the provisions of the Constitution, laws and policies with respect to Centre-State relations and recommend appropriate steps to strengthen the States' autonomy and federalism.

Making a *suo motu* announcement under Rule 110 of the Assembly, Mr. Stalin said the high-level committee will be headed by former Supreme Court judge Justice Kurian Joseph. Retired IAS officer and former Vice-Chancellor of the Indian Maritime University K. Ashok Vardhan Shetty and former vice-chairman, State Planning Commission M. Naganathan will be the members of the committee .

Chief Minister M.K. Stalin speaks in the Tamil Nadu Assembly on Tuesday. PTI

The committee is expected to submit its interim report by January 2026 and the final report within two years.

The mandate of the high-level committee includes to review the Constitutional provisions, laws, rules and policies with respect to Centre-State relations; to recommend ways to restore subjects moved from the State List to the Concurrent List; to propose measures for States to overcome administrative challenges; to suggest reforms to ensure maximum autonomy for States without compromising the unity and integrity of the nation; and to consider the recommendations of the Rajamannar Committee and subsequent commissions formed by the Union government on the Centre-State relations in light of current political, social, and economic developments. Noting India has completed 75 years of Independence, Mr. Stalin said, in a country where people speak different languages, belong to various ethnic groups, follow diverse cultures, the Constitution protects the rights of the people.

Cong. rejects Modi's comments on Kancha Gachibowli lands

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The Telangana Congress condemned Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks on the Kancha Gachibowli land issue, accusing the Bharatiya Janata Party of spreading misinformation.

Mr. Modi had criticised the Telangana government on Monday for allegedly forgetting its promises and harming forests and wildlife with bulldozers.

The Congress said the BJP's allegations against the State government were baseless and ignored the BJP's own poor environmental track record. It cited the construction of five academic buildings on the University of Hyderabad (UoH)) campus in 2023, inaugurated by the Prime Minister, which reportedly led to the loss of thousands of mature trees without evidence of compensatory afforestation steps.

It further accused the BJP of granting permission to the then BRS government to take over 33,251.18 acres of forest land for various developmental projects in Telangana.

It claimed that the BJP government has bulldozed forests in the name of development. Over 3 lakh hectares of forests cleared since 2014, and 99% of forest clearance applications were approved, it said.

Two Telangana expats murdered in Dubai

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Two expatriates from Telangana's Nizamabad and Nirmal districts respectively were allegedly murdered by fellow workers in a bakery in Dubai on Friday.

According to information reaching here, Ashtapu Premsagar from Soan village in Nirmal district and Srinivas of Nizamabad district were allegedly stabbed to death by a fellow co-worker hailing from Pakistan. Soan Sarpanch Tirukkovela Vinod Kumar told *The Hindu* on Tuesday that the younger brother of Premsagar reportedly received a call from Dubai informing him about the incident. "Sandeep came to me and informed that his brother and two others have been badly injured in a fight with a co-worker at the bakery. After sometime, it was confirmed that Premsagar died on the spot while Srinivas succumbed to his injuries later. Another person, also from Rajanna Sircilla district, was admitted into a hospital," he said.

Union Minister of Coal and Mines G. Kishan Reddy said that he is deeply shocked by the brutal killings. He said he spoke with External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar on the matter and has been assured full support to the bereaved families, and the urgent repatriation of the mortal remains.

Elephant tramples to death two more people in Kerala; Minister orders probe

The Hindu Bureau
THRISSUR

In continuing human-wildlife conflict in the forest fringes in Thrissur district of Kerala, two more tribespeople were killed in a wild elephant attack near the Athirappilly waterfalls on Monday night. The incident occurred at Vanchikkadavu under the Vazhachal forest division, marking the second such fatal attack within 48 hours in the area.

Fatal attack: Three deaths within 48 hours has created a sense of insecurity in the rural locality. FILE PHOTO

The victims, Satheesh and Ambika from the Sasthampooam tribal hamlet, were in the forest to collect wild honey – an age-old tradition for the tribals during the season. They were accompanied by two relatives when the tragedy struck.

Forest Minister A.K. Saseendran on Tuesday ordered an investigation into the incident. The Chief Wildlife Warden will head the probe, which has sparked protests and created a sense of insecurity in the rural locality.

The Forest department officials said it is usual for the tribespeople to stay in temporary huts for days in the forest to collect forest produces. As the elephant charged, the group fled in panic. While the rest managed to escape, Satheesh and Ambika became victims.

"Both the bodies have been recovered. Ambika's body was found from the river, under the falls," according to the statement by the Forest department.

This incident follows the fatal attack on Sunday evening that claimed the life of 20-year-old Sebastian from Adichilthotty. He too had ventured into the forest to collect honey when he was killed by a wild elephant.

Local people believe a rogue elephant, known locally as 'Manjakomban', is responsible for the attack.

(With inputs from Thiruvananthapuram)

Bihar rumblings

A political churn makes the coming election an open contest

Parties and alliances, and variegated caste and interest groups, are repositioning themselves to optimise their strengths in Bihar before the Assembly election which is due later this year. After the BJP's victory in Haryana for a third time in a row and the NDA recouping its losses in the 2024 general election to return to power in Maharashtra, all eyes are now on Bihar. There are intra-party and inter-party dynamics at play in both poles – the NDA on the one side and the Mahagathbandhan of the RJD, the Congress and the Left on the other. On Tuesday, RJD and Congress leaders met in Delhi, with more discussions to follow. Last month, Home Minister Amit Shah paid a two-day visit to the State, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi is expected to visit Madhubani on April 24. The BJP, which has played second fiddle to the Janata Dal (United) for nearly two decades, is restive for the lead role. In a Freudian slip, Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini said at an event in Gurgaon, that Bihar Deputy Chief Minister and BJP leader Samrat Choudhary would unfurl the "flag of victory" in the Assembly polls. This led the RJD to gleefully ask whether the BJP had abandoned Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, which in turn left the BJP scrambling to clarify matters. With his advancing age and frail health, Mr. Kumar is under scrutiny.

In the Mahagathbandhan, there is distrust. The Congress and the Left are wary that the RJD will leave seat-sharing arrangements to the last minute, giving them little room to manoeuvre. In addition, the Congress has complained that it is often burdened with weak seats and later criticised for bad strike rate, citing the example of the 2020 elections where it could win only 19 seats out of the 70. The CPI(ML), which registered a stunning performance in 2020, winning 12 of the 19 seats it contested, has lamented that despite strong cadres, it is given the smaller share of the seat pie. The RJD too has its own demons to face. Since 2005 it has not been able to return to power, barring the short interludes when it allied with the JD(U) in 2015 and in 2022. Its vote share remains static and while it has repeatedly come within striking distance of power, the last mile seems far too arduous for it to cover. While the leading parties face challenges within and outside, there is also a wider political churn. On Monday, Union Minister Chirag Paswan's estranged uncle, Pashupati Kumar Paras, who leads one of the two factions of the erstwhile Lok Janshakti Party, cut his ties with the NDA. Political strategist-turned politician Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraaj is struggling to find a foothold despite the bluster. All told, Bihar promises to be an open contest, with many variables still in the mix.

Self-perpetuating

Sudan's humanitarian crisis needs the world's attention

In April 2023, a power struggle between two generals pushed Sudan, which witnessed a revolution and a counter-revolutionary coup in the preceding years, into a devastating cycle of violence. The conflict has displaced nearly 13 million people, transformed cities, including the capital, Khartoum, into war zones, and triggered economic collapse, inducing the world's first officially declared famine in four years. More than 1,50,000 people have lost their lives. Yet, the generals, army chief Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and head of the notorious paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo, are not done fighting. Although the army suffered setbacks early in the conflict, it has regained ground. Late last month, in a blow to the RSF, Gen. Burhan's forces took control of Khartoum. The military controls much of northern and eastern Sudan, including the Red Sea city of Port Sudan, the de facto wartime capital. However, the RSF, a potent force, maintains control over much of the western Darfur region, where it is currently laying siege to El Fasher, an army stronghold. Recently, the RSF declared a parallel government in the areas under its control, seeking to shore up political support. So, despite the army's gains, a decisive victory seems far away.

While the RSF faces credible allegations of large-scale atrocities against civilians, including the rape of children, both sides bear responsibility for Sudan's descent into chaos and anarchy. The country hoped for a new dawn when mass protests brought down the brutal three-decade dictatorship of President Omar al-Bashir in 2019. After his fall, the military and civilian leaders shared power in a transitional administration, which was seen as a stepping stone toward full civilian rule. But in 2021, Gen. Burhan, then head of the transitional government, refused to hand over power to the civilian leadership. He joined hands with Mr. Dagalo, to orchestrate a coup. Their alliance soon collapsed, bringing civil war. For two years, the international community largely turned a blind eye, while regional powers supported rival factions. The military accuses the UAE of backing the predominantly Arab RSF, while the army gets support from Russia, Türkiye, Iran and Qatar. But two years of war is a testament to the fact that there can be no military solution. Civilians have endured relentless air strikes by the army, indiscriminate attacks and looting by the RSF and a near-total collapse in health care, education and access to food and water in the war-hit areas. The world must pay attention to Sudan's humanitarian crisis and push for urgent, meaningful talks between the warring factions. What Sudan needs is an immediate ceasefire, followed by humanitarian aid so that at least some measure of stability could be restored.

A proclamation of democracy in legislative process

Kaleeswaram Raj

is a lawyer in the Supreme Court of India

The recent judgment by the Supreme Court of India, in *The State of Tamil Nadu vs Governor of Tamil Nadu*, was a historic one. But it has also led to another development – the passing of laws without the assent of the Governor or President, which is an unprecedented event in the history of the republic. The Court invoked Article 142 of the Constitution to do "complete justice" in the case and fixed a time limit for the gubernatorial and presidential responses to the Bills passed by the State legislature. It interpreted Articles 200 and 201 of the Constitution dealing with the powers and functions of the Governors and the President and laid down principles governing these provisions. It emphatically said that the Governor cannot torpedo the laws made by the legislature that reflects the people's will.

The judgment that runs into 414 pages has embarrassed the Centre. The Governor of Kerala is on record for his criticism of the judgment. He has expressed his view that the Court has overstepped into the domain of Parliament and exceeded its authority by subjecting even the President of India to judicial review.

The issue of interpretation

The Constitution is not a static document when it requires interpretation. The Court does not read the text of the Constitution in a mechanical way; rather, it interprets it organically in each situation. A centralist Constitution such as India's often calls for a federalist elucidation, to balance the interest of the States, which essentially means the people of India. Again, very many deficits in the constitutional provisions might require imaginative and purposive construction to fulfil their objective. Scholar Robert Post has rejected the plain meaning theory of interpretation as not a theory at all, for it does not actually involve a process of interpretation.

Constitutional interpretation, unlike statutory interpretation, is bound to be panoramic, futuristic and extensive. The Court's long journey from the narrow understanding of Article 21 in *A.K. Gopalan* (1950), which validated the preventive detention, to the broader prepositions on privacy based on the very same article in *K.S. Puttaswamy* (2017) shows the significant transformation in the process. The present judgment, which was rendered by Justice J.B. Pardiwala and Justice R. Mahadevan, demonstrates constitutional modernity and realism.

Article 200 of the Constitution is about the Governor's duties (not powers) with respect to the Bills passed by the State legislature. Primarily, when a Bill is placed before her, the Governor has three ways ahead: to give assent; to withhold it; or to make a reference to the President. Returning the Bill that is withheld, for reconsideration is the next option. Once a Bill so returned is reiterated by the House with or without amendment, the Governor cannot withhold assent any further. The Article also provides for reserving the Bill for presidential clearance in certain cases. Situations of repugnancy, and patent unconstitutionality on account of breach of express constitutional provisions could be reasons for such a course. Article 201 is on the obligations of the President on reservation of the Bill for her consideration. She can either give assent or withhold it. Also, she can direct the Governor to return the Bill to the President with a message when it is not a money Bill. Reconsideration of such a returned Bill should happen within six months. On reiteration, the Bill should be again 'reconsidered' by the President.

> The perceived immunity to the Governor and the President in legislative process has been completely removed by the Supreme Court's recent judgment

Requirement of a reasoned order

This scheme indicated in the constitutional text is not comprehensive. The Court, while deciding the illustrative instance of the Tamil Nadu Governor dragging the Bills, had occasion to scan the intent and the content of the constitutional provisions. One major deficit of the provisions is a lack of a time limit for the Governor or the President to carry out their prescribed function. Again, provisions imply a great element of trust in the constitutional functionaries, which, however, stands betrayed over a period, especially in the recent past. A textual reading of the provisions can only perpetuate these deficits, which in turn, cannot resolve the issue placed by Tamil Nadu in the given case. This realisation has constrained the Court to fix the time limit for gubernatorial and presidential decisions on the Bills. This again has led to the judicial assertion that certain actions or inactions by the constitutional functionaries under these provisions cannot escape judicial scrutiny. In the given scenario, the idea of deemed assent by the President was a constitutional synthesis, for which Article 142 of the Constitution provides a formidable foundation.

The judgment relied on the Sarkaria Commission Report (1988) which said that "nonconformity of a state Bill to the policy of the Union Government is not always a safe ground for withholding presidential assent from it". The verdict has also underlined the requirement to have reasoned orders when constitutional functionaries choose to decline assent. It rejected the idea of "simpliciter withholding" of the Bills. Thus, the perceived immunity attached to the Governor and the President in the legislative process is completely removed by the judgment. It is a proclamation of people's democracy in the legislative process.

Therefore, the criticism that the Court has exceeded in its jurisdiction in the given case is clearly misconceived. It is erroneous to think that the Court has 'amended' the Constitution only because it supplemented (not supplanted) the constitutional provisions to meet the exigencies. It does not amount to legislation either, as the conclusions in the judgment only rest on a thorough precedential survey on the issue. It quoted Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer in *Shamsher Singh & Anr vs State Of Punjab* (1974), a seven-judge Bench judgment, which is still regarded as the *locus classicus* on gubernatorial functions under our constitutional scheme. The present verdict imported the people's right to enact laws while *Shamsher Singh* was more on the binding nature of the decision of the cabinet chosen by the voters. The Court could reject the idea of "unfettered discretion" in referring the Bills to the President, as laid down in *B.K. Pavitra vs Union of India* (2019), based on larger Bench decisions such as the one in *Shamsher Singh*. It is promising to see the judiciary in an assertive mode, after a long interval, that too in a case where it directly confronted the political executive at the Centre.

Suggestions to consider

Yet, two suggestions may be useful for the time to come. The first is that in critical constitutional adjudication, instead of rendering huge verdicts after a long time, the Court needs to resort to the practice of delivering shorter judgments within a shorter span of time. The judgment of the U.K. Supreme Court in the Brexit-related case, *R(Miller) vs The Prime Minister* (2019), was just 24 pages. Brevity and promptness in the judicial process could be of great support for a nation in trouble.

Second, when matters of the similar nature are pending adjudication, the Court must have a system to club them together so that the same Bench hears the cases together. A lack of proper internal management in the Court was felt when after the Tamil Nadu judgment, a request had to be made on behalf of the State of Kerala to place its petition seeking similar relief before the same Bench. Propriety demands that such a request is heeded to forthwith, to ensure certainty, predictability and clarity, which are essential facets of constitutional adjudication.

India, rising power demand and the 'hydrogen factor'

R.B. Grover

is a Member of the Atomic Energy Commission, a former Principal Adviser of the Department of Atomic Energy, and a former Vice-Chancellor of the Homi Bhabha National Institute

The goal of achieving a net-zero economy can be realised only by massive electrification of end uses of energy. Besides their use in generating electricity, fossil fuels are used to provide heat and molecules for industrial processes. The use of fossil fuels for providing heat is ubiquitous and well understood. Examples of providing molecules include the use of carbon (from coal) in steel making to reduce iron ore, and the use of hydrogen from natural gas to make ammonia, which is a feedstock for the fertilizer industry. In the steel industry, hydrogen can be substituted for carbon. Thus, a net-zero economy would mean electrification of end uses and the use of hydrogen for many industrial processes.

Power demand and nuclear power plans

Forecasts made by several academics, including this writer and his colleagues, predict a steep increase in electricity demand to meet the goal of economy-wide net-zero emissions for a developed India. Solar, wind and hydro cannot provide all the electricity that India needs, and nuclear has to be part of the energy mix in India. Considering this, the Government of India has set an aspirational target to reach 100 GW of installed capacity based on nuclear power by 2047.

The Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) has announced an ambitious programme to set up several 700 MW Pressurized Heavy Water Reactors (PHWRs). Two units are working at Kakrapar in Gujarat. One unit in Rajasthan was synchronised to the grid in March 2025 and another is under commissioning. Two units are coming up in Haryana. In 2017, the NPCIL announced the construction of a fleet of 10 reactors, and on March 11 this year, the Chairman and Managing Director of NPCIL announced plans to construct an additional 10 units. When completed, the total will amount to 26 units of 700 MW rating.

Many public sector undertakings and departments such as the Indian Railways are looking to deploy nuclear power plants.

> With a goal of a net-zero economy meaning greater use of hydrogen, hydrogen generation and electricity storage would need to be synergised

The NPCIL has invited proposals from the industry for setting up 220 MW PHWRs, christened as Bharat Small Reactors (BSRs) for its captive use. The NPCIL has several 220 MW PHWRs in its portfolio, and the BSR is its evolutionary version. Thus, the NPCIL is marching ahead to set up PHWRs, a technology that it has mastered. Indian industry is capable of manufacturing all equipment and components for PHWRs.

Low carbon sources and solutions

Therefore, in the years ahead, the share of electricity provided by low-carbon sources, that is, hydro, nuclear, solar and wind, will increase. Solar and wind are intermittent sources, and nuclear is best operated as base load. At present, to balance supply and demand during solar hours, coal-fired power plants are flexed. Flexing coal-fired plants and letting solar and wind continue to operate lowers carbon emissions from electricity generation. In the emerging scenario, when all sources are low-carbon, balancing supply and demand will need innovative solutions.

Suggestions to explore the possibility of flexing nuclear power plants have been made. It is not desirable to flex power plants set up with a high capital cost. It is worth recalling that the capital cost of a nuclear plant is higher than a coal-fired power plant, but the variable cost is lower.

Also, flexing nuclear power plants is technically challenging. Though adopted to a limited extent in some countries for certain reactor designs, it is also not cost-competitive for two reasons: when operated at low power, the variable cost might remain the same as for operating at full power or only marginally come down. This does not make any environmental or economic sense. Many advanced reactors are being designed to be load-following, but this is a technology for the future.

Producing hydrogen by electrolysers when there is surplus electricity in the system is a solution based on mature technologies. One can connect electrolysers and electricity storage devices to the grid and operate them to shape demand so that there is no need to flex nuclear power plants or curtail solar and wind. Following this approach, one can reduce electricity storage requirements. Considering that the cost of electricity storage is an issue for large-scale integration of solar and wind, this approach provides a win-win solution.

Electrolysers are low-cost equipment and can be operated at different power levels. The scheme proposed for hydrogen production using surplus electricity in the system is not for the reconversion of hydrogen to electricity but for its use in the industry.

The government has defined hydrogen produced by electrolysers using electricity from solar and wind as green and has provided incentives. A certification scheme has also been drafted for green hydrogen, where electrolytic and biomass-based hydrogen with CO_2 emissions not exceeding 2 kg CO_2/kg H_2 on average is called green. Life-cycle greenhouse gas emissions (expressed in terms of a kg of greenhouse gas per kg of hydrogen) for hydrogen production from renewable sources and nuclear power plants are comparable. It is suggested that the taxonomy be changed from green hydrogen to low-carbon hydrogen based on a threshold for carbon emissions. This will enable nuclear to be included in the definition of low-carbon hydrogen

Need for synergy

At present, electricity storage and hydrogen production are considered distinct activities. This needs to change. Hydrogen generation and electricity storage need to be synergised to improve economics. Our case studies demonstrate that by synergising hydrogen generation and battery storage, one can improve overall economics.

We recommend two policy changes: changing the taxonomy by replacing green hydrogen with low-carbon hydrogen, and synergising electricity storage and hydrogen production.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

History, textbook revisions

As someone who wrote the Central Board of Secondary Education Class XII Board examinations, with history and political science as my subjects, the deletion of select topics and chapters by the National Council of Educational Research and Training in the guise of a "rationalisation of content in the textbooks" is appalling.

Under the veneer of reducing "content load" on students, deletions include the 2002 Gujarat riots, and omitted excerpts include "The Government of India cracked down on organisations that were spreading communal hatred. Organisations like the Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh were banned for some time. Communal politics began to lose its appeal". Revisionist tendencies are evident in these examples, particularly in the systematic erasure of chapters that discuss contentious events and empires — Theme 14: "Understanding Partition" and Theme 9: "Kings and Chronicles, the Mughal Courts". History textbooks lack nuance, and the pedagogical methods of these subjects remain archaic.

Teachers in discussions, if any, bring to the table their own entrenched biases, discouraging moderate approaches. Bollywood movies recounting historical events exacerbate the problem by offering black and white interpretations devoid of any nuance, indoctrinating those who never read of these events in their school textbooks. The need of the hour is to have textbooks that recount all important phases of India's rich history objectively, no matter how "unsettling" certain topics may seem (Editorial page, "History as battlefield — the perils of reversing the past", April 15).

Keshav Aggarwal,
New Delhi

CSK's win

'Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached' is the quote I am reminded of after watching CSK's win against Lucknow Super Giants ('Sport' page, "Dhoni, Dube keep cool as CSK snaps losing streak", April 15). Despite being mocked and its team members depressed after consecutive losses, CSK pulled together as a team with the right attitude, approach and gameplay under the guidance of its talisman, M.S. Dhoni. MSD has proved that captaincy does not lie in one's age alone but also by one's ability to lead in times of distress.

R. Srivatsan,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

The approach to regulating AI in India

Tulika Avni Sinha

Senior Research Fellow (Data Governance, Privacy and AI)
World Privacy Forum

The governance and regulation of Artificial Intelligence (AI) have garnered significant global attention over the past year. While the discourse has recently shifted from a focus on social safety, inclusivity, and human rights towards prioritising innovation and economic prosperity, only a few countries or regions have so far introduced laws to regulate AI. These include China, the European Union, Canada, Korea, Peru, and the U.S. (though U.S. President Donald Trump has now revoked former President Joe Biden's Executive Order related to the utilisation of AI). Several countries, such as the U.K., Japan, Brazil, Costa Rica, Colombia, and Pakistan have draft Bills awaiting approval from their respective legislative assemblies.

A more common approach globally has been the publication of a policy or strategy document that outlines the country's intentions, plans, budgets, and a road map for leveraging AI to foster socio-economic development, while ensuring that the resultant growth is inclusive, ethical, and sustainable. About 85 countries and the African Union have published some official (National) AI Strategy documents.

India's approach

India, however, appears to have taken a different approach. It has neither an officially approved National AI Strategy document nor a law specifically regulating AI. Instead, it has focused its resources on a government mission designed to support the development and adoption of AI. The NITI Aayog document titled 'National Strategy for Artificial Intelligence' from 2018, while comprehensive and strong in its suggestions, remains a recommendation without formal endorsement from the Government of India or an implementation plan or budget. The IndiaAI mission, through its seven pillars, aims to foster an innovative, skilled, safe, and trustworthy AI ecosystem. Several initiatives, such as a foundational AI model, are in the pipeline. An advisory group of experts is currently working to develop recommendations for governance frameworks that could be suitable for India. But there is limited clarity regarding whether these recommendations will be adopted into official governance policies or integrated as internal mechanisms.

While there are several benefits to this approach – primarily the flexibility to adapt plans in response to the evolving nature of technologies, their adoption, geopolitics, economics, trade, and citizen sentiment – it also leaves a significant gap. Specifically, it does not provide a comprehensive view of India's vision, priorities, capacity, achievements, planned milestones, initiatives, or accountability mechanisms. The initiatives remain reactive and may or may not follow a planned trajectory towards the envisioned goals. They also risk dependence on individual leadership.

AI development remains predominantly concentrated in the U.S., the EU, the U.K., and China, but India is experiencing a rapid and substantial rise in AI adoption. As AI usage expands, it is essential to ensure that its implementation does not lead to discrimination, exclusionary practices, unfair outcomes, cybersecurity threats, privacy breaches, or unequal opportunities. At present, the guardrails surrounding AI implementation are largely voluntary and lack clarity. There is little to no public awareness of algorithmic use, efficacy or evaluation metrics even in sectors that directly impact citizens' everyday lives, such as banking, insurance, education, healthcare, and public administration. Subsequently, there is little civic discourse on important issues such as algorithmic alignment with societal values, model evaluation outcomes, data and content provenance, labour market disruptions, or the potential cybersecurity and privacy risks driven by AI. This lack of discussion is especially concerning in light of the fact that India has already experienced several instances of violence and social harm, largely fuelled by AI-generated content on social media platforms in recent years.

Lessons to be drawn

There are various approaches to AI governance and regulation, and valuable lessons can be drawn from how different countries worldwide have handled data regulation and policies. With the Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act, 2023, the Government of India has adopted an approach similar to the EU's General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) and China's Personal Information Protection Law – cross-sectoral, centralised, and comprehensive. In contrast, the U.S. has taken a more decentralised and sector-specific approach to data protection and privacy. China has implemented focused laws for different types of AI (for instance, generative AI) or a use case (for example, deep synthesis). India could adopt any of these approaches or develop a hybrid model, building on the framework established by the centralised DPDP Act, 2023..

An AI policy could be a viable short-term goal for India. Such a policy would also allow the government to pilot enforcement tools before introducing formal legislation. Insights from the 85 AI policies worldwide suggest key areas that should be addressed in the official document. These include India's vision for AI, strategies for building capacity and infrastructure to support AI development and adoption, the government authority responsible for policy implementation, ethical guidelines for responsible AI use, and priority sectors where AI can drive socio-economic growth. Public discussion on AI use need to be urgently initiated by the government too.

There are various approaches to AI governance and regulation, and valuable lessons can be drawn from how different countries worldwide have handled data regulation and policies

It's too early to feel vindicated

The Kerala government will have to wait before celebrating the SC verdict

STATE OF PLAY

K.S. Sudhi
sudhi.ks@thehindu.co.in

The relationship between the CPI(M)-led Left Democratic Front (LDF) government in Kerala and the Governor has been more or less a tranquil affair during the past decades with two rare exceptions.

In the late 1980s, there was a face-off between the CPI(M) and the Governor during the two-year-long tenure of Ram Dulari Sinha, who was a former Union and State Minister from Bihar. The then ruling front locked horns with the Governor over the nomination of a few members to the Senates of the Kerala and Calicut universities of her choice, thereby ignoring the recommendations of the State government. The LDF took to the streets protesting against the Governor and even organised marches to the Raj Bhavan. Later, the LDF government also passed a resolution in the Assembly condemning her "autocratic acts".

Some of the young leaders of the Students Federation of India, who were at the forefront of those protests, later graduated in politics to become State Ministers in the second LDF government led by Pinarayi Vijayan, which again hit a collision course with Kerala Governor Arif Mohammad Khan.

Though Mr. Khan began his tenure as Governor by declaring that he wanted to help the State government, the relationship turned sour in no time. Both the Governor and the government toughened their positions on a series of issues concerning the State. At one point, the Chief Minister and the Governor even refused to acknowledge each other and exchange smiles, if not pleasantries, while attending public functions. The Governor also criticised the government at press conferences and challenged activists of the Students' Federation of India, who protested against him on the streets, to confront him directly, and termed them criminals. When Mr. Khan was later appointed Governor of Bihar, the LDF government chose not to give him a ceremonial send-off.

Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, a former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) worker, was appointed the next Governor. He began his tenure on a cordial note with the government, even as litigation against the former Governor remained pending with the Supreme Court. Mr. Arlekar surprised everyone who was expecting the conflict between the Governor and government to continue by joining Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan and Union Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for a breakfast meeting at Kerala House in New Delhi recently.

However, a recent landmark judgment of the Supreme Court has come at the most inopportune time for both the Governor and the State government. Declaring Tamil Nadu Governor R.N. Ravi's prolonged refusal to give his assent to 10 Bills as illegal and erroneous in law, the Court fixed a time frame for the Governors and the President to act on the Bills passed by the State Legislatures.

Kerala was one of the States that took the Governor to the Supreme Court. It had also set the legal and political circles of the State abuzz with its surprise decision to file an appeal in the Supreme Court after President Droupadi Murmu withheld assent for four Bills passed by the Kerala Legislature without disclosing any reasons.

The LDF government was quick to claim that the apex court has vindicated its stand on the issue by setting a timeline for Governors and the President to act on Bills, in the petition filed by Tamil Nadu, even though the Supreme Court is to consider its case only in May. However, it was caught by surprise when Mr. Arlekar gave an interview to the media terming the Supreme Court order as a judicial overstep. This has given rise to apprehensions that the bonhomie between the Governor and the government may not last long.

However, the government has approached the situation with abundant caution and the Ministers who responded to the Governor's statement were careful not to rub him the wrong way. They also appeared to have confined themselves to the questions of law discussed in the Supreme Court order and not cross swords with the Governor.

It is not yet time for the Kerala government to rejoice since a final verdict on the issues raised by it will be taken up by the Supreme Court only next month. Also, there is apprehension that the Court may refer the case to a Constitution Bench. This means that the government will have to handle the current situation with extreme caution.

Why are women missing from the factory floors?

Women in India are mostly concentrated in the informal sector, which is low paying and offers a poor standard of working

DATA POINT

Shabana Mitra, Cledwyn Fernandez, Anjhana Ramesh

One of the drivers of Viksit Bharat will be manufacturing. One of the pillars of Viksit Bharat is 'nari (women)'. However, women are missing from the factory floors. The share of women in India's formal manufacturing sector fell from 20.9% in 2015-16 to 18.9% in 2022-23 (1.57 million out of 8.34 million formal workers). What is even more striking is that of all the women working in manufacturing, Tamil Nadu alone is employing 41%.

In informal manufacturing, women form 43% of the workforce. Therefore, it is not the case that women are not working, but that they are not getting the "better" jobs. This again points to informalisation and the low paying nature of jobs held by women.

Manufacturing contributes almost one-fifth of India's GDP. It is poised to be a key growth driver for India. Yet the participation of women in this sector remains low. Compared to other developing economies such as Bangladesh and Vietnam, India lags behind.

Tamil Nadu, which employs the largest chunk of the formal female workforce, and four other States make up almost three-quarters of India's total. This implies that five States are responsible for most of the formal female manufacturing workforce **(Figure 1a)**. Similarly, West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, and Maharashtra contribute close to 50% of the informal women workforce in the manufacturing sector **(Figure 1b)**.

Bihar, West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, and Haryana have the highest gender gap **(Figure 2)** in the formal manufacturing workforce, with women making up less than 6% of the workforce. Moreover, even highly industrialised States such as Gujarat, Maharashtra, and U.P. have a high gender disparity in the formal manufacturing sector. Women make up less than 15% of the workforce in these States.

There is significant homogeneity across industries in which women are employed within the formal and informal sector. For instance, within the formal sector, 60% are employed in textile, wearing apparel, and food processing **(Figure 3A)**. Within the informal sector, wearing apparel and tobacco sectors are the major employers of women **(Figure 3B)**.

Within the formal sector, tobacco is the only industry where more women than men are employed. In the informal tobacco industry, more than 90% are women. Thus, women in India are mostly concentrated in the inform0al sector, which is low paying and offers a poor standard of working. Therefore, it is important to transition women from the informal to the formal sector to ensure a decent pay and work environment.

Given the high degree of informality, and lack of heterogeneity in the manufacturing workforce for women, the first step to boost participation is skill training. According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey, about 6% of women in the sector have either formal vocational training or training on the job. Hence, upskilling women is imperative to improve both participation and productivity.

Second, it is essential that women complete their higher education, which could improve their chances of being employed in manufacturing. Nearly 47% of men in manufacturing have completed secondary education or higher, compared to just 30% of women.

Third, there is an immediate need for greater sectoral diversification. Lastly, it is salient to make work environments safe to improve workforce participation. For instance, Tamil Nadu initiated the 'Thozhi' scheme under which it built working women hostels. Such specific interventions are needed in each State to address their unique challenges.

Gender gap in **the workforce**

Data was sourced from the PLFS and the Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises

Chart 1a: State-wise share of the formal female manufacturing workforce

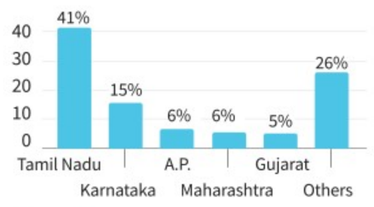
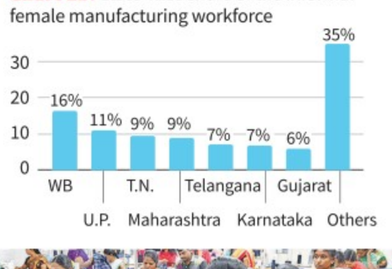


Chart 1b: State-wise share of the informal female manufacturing workforce



At work: A woman working in a semi-mechanised match manufacturing unit at Kovilpatti in Tuticorin district. N.RAJESH

Chart 2: Gender gap in formal and informal manufacturing. In the graph, the higher the positive number, the higher the gender gap, the lower the positive number, the lower the gender gap. Negative numbers correspond to more women working in the sector than men

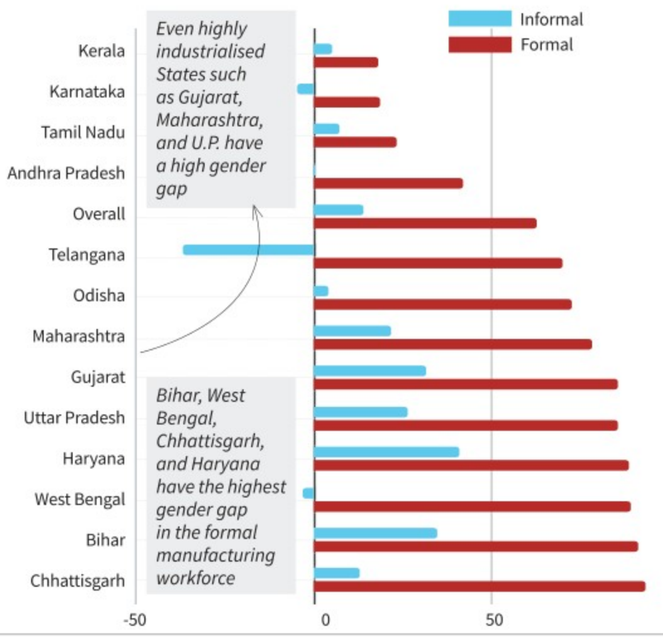


Chart 3a: Sector-wise share of women in the formal workforce

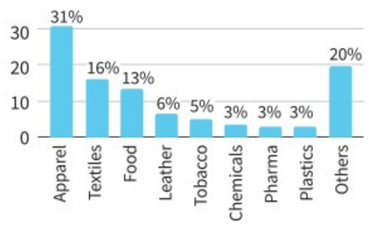
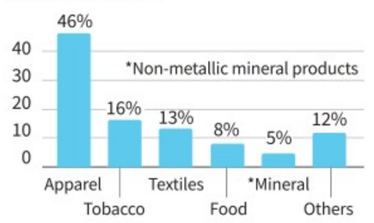


Chart 3b: Sector-wise share of women in the informal workforce



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 16, 1975

Overwhelming vote in Sikkim for Union with India

New Delhi, April 15: Sikkim has overwhelmingly voted for the abolition of the institution of Chogyal and for full statehood within the Indian Union. The voting took place in a referendum throughout the Himalayan State yesterday.

Within minutes of the declaration of the result of referendum, the Chief Minister, Kazi Lhondup Dorji, conveyed it to the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi, and sought an opportunity to visit Delhi and present the result personally to her and the President "at your very earliest convenience."

The Kazi told the Prime Minister that the people of Sikkim had approved and endorsed the Sikkim Assembly resolution by 59,635 votes in favour and 1.496 votes against.

The resolution, passed by the Sikkim Assembly on April 10, had said "the institution of Chogyal is hereby abolished and Sikkim shall henceforth be a constituent unit of India."

The referendum had called upon the Sikkimese to record their verdict on the resolution.

The Chief Minister in his communication to the Prime Minister to-night said that through this referendum, conducted with scrupulous impartiality under the supervision of the Sikkimese Election Officers and covered by a large number of press representatives, the Sikkimese people had unitedly endorsed the Assembly resolution.

The Kazi said that through the referendum, the people had confirmed their mandate to the Assembly.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 16, 1925

London telegraph messengers' strike

London, April 15: Two hundred boy-messengers of the Eastern Telegraph Company, London, have struck work on the ground that their employment is in the nature of a blind alley occupation and demand guarantees of promotion on increase to a maximum wage of 29s. 10d. per week by 8s. The strikers have refused to hand in their uniforms and declare they do not intend to surrender their jobs. It is understood that the Company have refused their demands and will dismiss the messengers as a body. Volunteers are delivering messages which have not been delayed.

From Page One

Retail inflation eases to 3.34%, lowest since 2019

Among major crops, tomato prices plunged almost 35% in March, steeper than the 29% deflation in February. Potato prices rose 2.3%, which was the lowest in a little more than a year. The kitchen staple's price had increased 26% in the previous month. Onion prices increased 19% in March, from 30% in the previous month.

Overall, vegetable prices deflated 7% for the second consecutive month. Pulses and products prices deflated 2.7% in March, while egg prices fell over 3%. Rice and wheat prices rose 4.9% and 9% in March, lower than the 5.3% and 9% gains of the previous month.

The CPI data moved in the same direction as the wholesale price inflation data, which was released on the same day by the Commerce Ministry. Wholesale prices eased 2.05% in March, from 2.38% in February. Primary articles prices increased at a modest 0.76% in March, down from 2.8% in the previous month. Fuel and power prices increased 0.2 % from a deflation of 0.7% in February 2025.

ED files chargesheet against Sonia, Rahul

"The present prosecution complaint shall next be taken up for consideration on the aspect of cognisance before this court on April 25 when the special counsel for the ED and IO shall also ensure the production of the case diaries for perusal by the court," the court said on Tuesday.

Tainted properties attached

Last week, the ED had served notices to the Registrars of Property to take possession of the alleged tainted properties in the case, located in Bandra (East) Mumbai; Bahadur Shah Zafar Marg, Delhi; and Bisheshwar Nath Road, Lucknow.

The agency also served a notice to Jindal South West Projects Limited for transfer of monthly rent to the agency, as it is occupying the seventh, eighth, and ninth floors at the building in Bandra. "These properties were attached after extensive investigation by the ED which revealed signification generation, possession, and use of proceeds of crime to the tune of ₹988 crore," the ED said.

"To secure the proceeds of crime and to prevent the accused from dissipating the same, the immovable properties of Associated Journals Limited located at Delhi, Mumbai, and Lucknow, valued at ₹661 crore along with the shares of AJL valued at ₹90.2 crore were attached by issuing provisional attachment order dated November 20, 2023," it said.

SC flays Allahabad HC for insensitive remarks

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Tuesday voiced perplexity at repeated judicial observations in orders emanating from the Allahabad High Court, one of the oldest in the country, displaying an insensitive outlook towards women.

The court was hearing a *suo motu* case on an order passed by Justice Ram Manohar Narayan Mishra on March 17 which concluded that groping and breaking the pyjama string of a minor did not add up to the grievous crime of attempted rape. Justice Sanjay Kumar Singh of the same court had later granted bail to a rape accused in a separate case while remarking the survivor "invited trouble and was responsible for the same".

"What is happening in this High Court? ... Why make all these observations?," Justice B.R. Gavai, heading a Bench with Justice A.G. Masih, remarked.

Murshidabad remains calm, arrests go up to 230 in Bengal

Residents of the areas affected want permanent deployment of Central forces amid prevailing tensions; some shops opened for Bengali New Year but public activity continues to be subdued

Shiv Sahay Singh
KOLKATA

An uneasy calm prevailed in the violence-hit areas of Dhulian and Shamsherganj in Murshidabad district of West Bengal on Tuesday, with no fresh incidents reported for the past three days. While some shops opened on the occasion of Poila Baisakh (Bengali New Year), public activity remained subdued.

Small respite: Children eat at a shelter in the violence-affected Beldona area of Murshidabad in West Bengal on Tuesday. ANI

Many residents who fled their homes and took shelter across the river in adjoining Malda district have reportedly not yet returned, despite assurances from the police administration.

Meanwhile, arrests continued, bringing the total number detained in connection with the recent violence to 221. Inspector-General of Police (South Bengal) Supratim Sarkar said a Special Investigation Team (SIT) arrested Kalu Nadaf and Dildar Nadaf for the alleged murder of Hargobind Das and his son Chandan Das. The accused are residents of Digri area near Jafrabad, Mr. Sarkar added.

The father and son were hacked to death at their house in Dhulian by a mob on April 12. They were among the three people killed during the protests against the Waqf (Amendment) Act.

Separately, nine more persons were arrested in connection with the violence in Bhangar, South 24 Parganas district, where a mob allegedly attacked police personnel and set police vehicles on fire while attempting to hold a protest against the Act.

MPs face public ire

Despite the relative calm in Murshidabad, public anger remained palpable in areas affected by the violence, including Domkal and Jafrabad, with some residents demanding the permanent deployment of the Central Armed Police Forces (CAPF). Following an intervention by the Calcutta High Court, over 20 CAPF companies have been deployed in the region.

Visiting political representatives faced public ire. The Trinamool Congress MP from Jangipur, Khalilur Rehman, faced angry questions from residents, with some alleging that individuals now appealing for peace were themselves involved in the violence.

In Malda, people taking shelter in a relief camp reportedly raised slogans against Malda South Congress MP Isha Khan Choudhury. There were also reports that Farakka MLA Manirul Islam had left his residence in the violence-affected area of Dhulian to seek shelter elsewhere.

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee has called a meeting with imams and muezzins on Wednesday to discuss the Act, reiterating that the law will not be implemented in the State.

Petitions seek probe into anti-Waqf law violence in Bengal

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

One plea sought a direction to the State govt. to file a report in the Supreme Court on steps taken to protect public property and lives

Two separate petitions have been filed in the Supreme Court variously seeking the setting up of a Special Investigation Team (SIT) and a court-monitored probe into the violence in West Bengal over the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.

The petitioners, Shashank Shekhar Jha and Vishal Tiwari, referred to the violence in the Bhangar area of South 24 Parganas district on April 14.

One of the pleas sought a direction to the State government to file a report in the top court on steps taken to contain the violence and protect public property and lives. The Calcutta High Court recently ordered the deployment of Central forces in Murshidabad district.

At least three people were killed and hundreds rendered homeless in communal violence in parts of Murshidabad, mainly Suti, Samserganj, Dhulian and Jangipur, on April 11 and 12 during protests against the Waqf (Amendment) Act.

The new law came into force on April 8.

Hearing today

As more petitions for and against the newly enacted law continue to be filed in the Supreme Court, a Bench headed by Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna is scheduled to hear them on Wednesday.

The Centre has already filed a caveat in the Supreme Court to ensure that no order is passed without hearing it first.

The petitions listed on Wednesday include those by politicians, the All India Muslim Personal Law Board (AIMPLB), the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK) and the Jamiat Ulama-i-Hind.

Vadra walks to ED's office, records statement in 2008 Haryana land deal case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Enforcement Directorate (ED) on Tuesday recorded the statement of Robert Vadra, businessman and husband of senior Congress leader Priyanka Gandhi Vadra, in connection with a 2008 Haryana land deal case.

Businessman Robert Vadra leaves after being questioned by the ED in a money laundering case on Tuesday. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Accompanied by his supporters, Mr. Vadra walked the two kilometres from his residence to the ED's headquarters at 11 a.m. He described the summons as "political vendetta", and alleged that whenever he talked about the rights of minorities, attempts were made to silence him.

"I am not going to be intimidated by this government or any agency. I am going to answer all the questions, but let's have a conclusion – don't wake up five-seven years later and come up with 20-year-old transactions and questions. So, obviously, people will not believe in this kind of agency or government...," Mr. Vadra told presspersons, adding that he had previously been questioned multiple times and he would continue to cooperate with the probe.

Mr. Vadra was summoned for the first time on April 8 in the same case. However, he sought another date, expressing his inability to join the investigation at that time.

The case pertains to a land deal in Shikohpur of Gurugram, carried out in February 2008 by a company, Skylight Hospitality, of which Mr. Vadra was earlier a director.

The company had purportedly acquired 3.5 acres of land in Shikohpur from another company named Onkareshwar Properties for about ₹7.5 crore. As alleged earlier, Onkareshwar Properties did not encash the cheque, and struck a deal with the company to help procure a housing licence through influence in the State government, then under Chief Minister Bhupinder Singh Hooda of the Congress party. The State government granted licence for a commercial project to Skylight Hospitality for the said land in alleged violation of the law.

Operation Chakra V: CBI gets hold of four 'kingpins' in 'digital arrest' fraud

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has arrested four people, two each from Mumbai and Moradabad (Uttar Pradesh), for their alleged involvement in "digital arrest" fraud.

The arrests, made as part of 'Operation Chakra V', followed searches at 12 locations in the country.

The CBI has registered multiple cases of "digital arrests". The agency took over the instant case on the Rajasthan government's request. It was earlier registered by the cyber police in Jhunjhunu.

As alleged, the victim was "digitally detained" for over three months by cyber criminals impersonating as personnel of various law enforcement agencies. During this period, the victim was extorted of ₹7.67 crore on 42 occasions.

After taking over the case, the CBI analysed the available data and profiles of suspects. Advanced investigative techniques were employed to identify the perpetrators. Based on the findings, the agency recently conducted extensive searches across 12 locations in Moradabad and Sambhal in U.P., Mumbai, Jaipur, and Krishnanagar (West Bengal), leading to the arrest of four individuals.

In such a fraud, criminals extort money from targets by posing as officials online. GETTY IMAGES

"Substantial material was seized during these searches, including bank account details, debit cards, cheque books, deposit slips, and digital devices/evidence. The arrested individuals were produced before the competent court and have been remanded in five days of police custody," the agency said.

In his '*Mann Ki Baat*' address last October, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had cautioned the people against 'digital arrest' frauds being committed to scam the victims of their hard-earned money and asked them to report such cases to the cyber helpline.

In this scam, fraudsters make phone/video calls to the prospective targets, posing as officials from various law enforcement and regulating agencies such as the Reserve Bank of India (RBI).

At first, they collect the personal information of potential victims, the second move is to create an atmosphere of fear by presenting themselves in probe agency uniforms with a government office-like background and quoting legal provisions. The criminals put psychological pressure on the victims by claiming that they have been "digitally arrested" for some offence.

IMD forecasts 'above normal' monsoon

Jacob Koshy
NEW DELHI

India is likely to receive "above normal" monsoon rainfall, or 5% more than the historical average of 87 cm, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) said on Tuesday. Were this to bear out, it would be a second year of "above normal" rainfall as India received 8% more than the historical average from June-September last year.

While all forecasts have a 4% margin of error, the IMD's forecast could mean enough water for the kharif crop and improved storage in country's reservoirs. However, it can also mean episodes of intense rain leading to devastating floods.

The absence of an El Nino, associated with the warming of the Central Equatorial Pacific and weak monsoon rain, is a major cause for optimism regarding surplus rain. Another factor is a parameter called the Eurasian snow cover, or snow cover areas of northern hemisphere and Eurasia from January-March 2025.

Dynamical model

These were "below normal", according to IMD meteorologists, and have an "inverse relationship" with the summer monsoon rainfall. An inverse relationship means that les snow corresponds to more rain. "For the monsoon forecast, we use a dynamical, coupled model," said M. Ravichandran, Secretary, Ministry of Earth Sciences, at a press conference. These are simulations of the oceans and the atmosphere and are fed into powerful computers to generate forecasts.

Pakistan planned to attribute 26/11 to Indian Muslims: former IB official

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Pakistan planned to attribute the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks in 2008 to "disgruntled Indian Muslims" against the backdrop of the country-wide attacks orchestrated by the Indian Mujahideen (IM) earlier, Ashok Prasad, former Special Director of Intelligence Bureau (IB), told *The Hindu*. The home-grown terror group, backed by Pakistan's ISI, was controlled from Karachi and had close links to the Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT).

> The [26/11 terror] attack revealed the true hydra-headed nature of global State-sponsored jehadi terrorism
>
> **ASHOK PRASAD**
> Former Special Director of Intelligence Bureau

"The attack revealed the true hydra-headed nature of global state-sponsored jihadi terrorism. Thus, Pakistani agencies were able to motivate Pak-American citizen David Coleman Headley through the LeT in Pakistan, facilitate his movement and travel from Canada through Tahawwur Rana, recce targets across India, routing movement through Nepal and Bangladesh, collecting and collating target data in Karachi," Mr. Prasad said.

He said the 10 terrorists were recruited and extensively trained in Pakistan with inputs from IM elements. "The attack was launched by sea with communication being maintained through a communication node in New Jersey, financed and coordinated from Spain and Italy," he said.

Key turn

The former Indian Police Service (IPS) officer said had it not been for the slain Mumbai Police constable Tukaram Omble who overpowered one of the terrorists, Ajmal Kasab, the true nature of the operation and the extent of Pakistan's involvement could not have been unravelled.

"The 10 Pakistani terrorists who carried the 26/11 attack had Indian identity documents... according to the ISI's plan, the claim was to be made in the name of Deccan Mujahideen, basically with the intention of attributing the entire attack to an Indian group. The intention was to portray India as an unsafe investment destination, due to instability and violent backlash arising out of persecution of minorities," he said.

The officer added that if Kasab had not been caught alive, the entire conspiracy could not have been revealed.

At least 166 persons, including six Americans, were killed in the 26/11 terror attack.

India slams Pak. for its remarks on Waqf Act

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Pakistan has no 'locus standi' to comment on India's internal affairs, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) said on Tuesday in a hard-hitting statement after Pakistan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs described the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025 as an "infringement over the religious and economic rights of Indian Muslims".

"We strongly reject the motivated and baseless comments made by Pakistan on the Act enacted by the Parliament of India... Pakistan would do better to look at its own abysmal record when it comes to protecting rights of minorities, instead of preaching to others," said MEA spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal.

APPEAL

23 years old Prasath is suffering from a Traumatic Brain Injury due to a severe accident. He is in Intensive Care Unit of Kovai Medical Centre and Hospital, Coimbatore. He requires 20 lakh rupees for the surgery and has to be in the ICU for more than 3 months. The family cannot afford this huge cost. Please help him to have a bright future. The donations sent through Ch/D.D./M.O/ NEFT Transfer & GOOGLEPAY (Canara Bank, Nungambakkam Branch, A/c No. 60182010063310, IFSC No: CNRB0016018) favouring **WOMEN'S WELFARE SYNDICATE** is exempted under 80G IT. Your e-mail ID is requested.

All correspondence is done through **WWS,** Regd Public Charitable Trust, **Flat No. GF 1, Corddel Apartments, O.No.13, N.No. 29, Pycrofts Garden Lane, Chennai-600006. Ph: 044-42137401/ 31523781/ 7338978027.**

E-mail ID: womenswelfaresyndicate@gmail.com.

Website: www.womenswelfaresyndicate.org.

WWS

Cong. playing 'victim card' after looting money: BJP

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The BJP said on Tuesday that the *National Herald* case, in which the Enforcement Directorate filed a chargesheet against Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi and others, is a living example of the Congress's corruption.

It also alleged that the Nehru-Gandhi family was the "most corrupt" in the world. The chargesheet has made it clear how the Gandhi family did money laundering in the case, BJP chief spokesperson Anil Baluni said.

"The investigative agencies are doing their job. No matter how big a criminal is, the Constitution of India will surely bring such a person to justice," he said.

BJP leader Shehzad Poonawalla accused Congress leaders of playing the "victim card" after indulging in "loot" of public money.

Cong. to oppose ED move against Sonia and Rahul

Party plans demonstrations outside agency's offices today, alleges 'state-sponsored crime masquerading as the rule of law'; 'frivolous, politically motivated and fabricated' case, it says

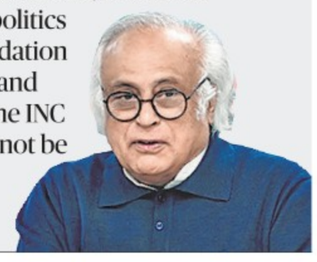
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Hours after the Enforcement Directorate (ED) named Congress leaders Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in a chargesheet alleging money laundering in the *National Herald* case, the Congress on Tuesday called it "a state-sponsored crime masquerading as the rule of law".

Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal announced that the party would hold protests outside ED offices across the country on Wednesday to register "our strong opposition to such politics of vendetta and intimidation".

"Filing chargesheets against Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and some others is nothing but politics of vendetta and intimidation by the Prime Minister and the Home Minister gone completely berserk. The INC and its leadership will not be silenced. Satyameva Jayate," Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh said in a post on X. "Seizing the assets of the *National Herald* is a state-sponsored crime masquerading as the rule of law," he added.

> Filing chargesheets against Sonia Gandhi, Rahul Gandhi, and some others is nothing but politics of vendetta and intimidation by the Prime Minister and the Home Minister... The INC and its leadership will not be silenced
>
> **JAIRAM RAMESH**
> Congress leader



Senior advocate and Rajya Sabha member Abhishek Singhvi said that the government had "started a money laundering investigation without there being any movement of money, property, or any activity that caused a transfer".

"Now, there is nothing more except the chargesheet filed in a fake case, in a non-existent case. But, anyway, this is being contested. This will be contested fully in all aspects," Mr. Singhvi said.

'Witch hunt'

In a post on X, Mr. Venugopal added, "The Modi-Shah regime's vendetta against the Opposition knows no bounds. The witch hunt against Smt. Sonia Gandhi ji and LOP Sh. @RahulGandhi ji, using the frivolous, politically motivated & fabricated *National Herald* case, is a clear example of their attempt at intimidation and silencing of Opposition voices."

"This reeks of desperation from the PM and Home Minister, who are failing to address the concerns of the people and are looking to continuously create distraction after distraction," he added.

Top policymakers, experts to speak on pressing issues at *The Hindu* Huddle

Radhika Santhanam

After a hiatus, *The Hindu* Huddle, a marquee event of The Hindu Group, will be held in Bengaluru on May 9 and 10. The inaugural address will be delivered by Union Home Minister Amit Shah.

This year's theme, "India in Dialogue", is a celebration of meaningful debates and conversations. At a time when noise often drowns out nuance, *The Hindu* Huddle creates space for listening, reflection, and authentic connections.

This edition will bring together top policymakers of India and global experts to speak about the most pressing issues of today. These include the opportunities and challenges of living with the global repercussions of U.S. economic policies, the geopolitical concerns of the Indian subcontinent, delimitation, the future of liberal education, the importance of technology in addressing climate change, how women are redefining content and its consumption in mainstream cinema, and the rise of non-communicable diseases.

Speaking about this edition, Narayan Lakshman, Opinion Editor, *The Hindu*, and Curator, *The Hindu* Huddle, says, "*The Hindu* Huddle has already made a name for itself over four previous editions. Presented, year on year, in a cosmopolitan city like Bengaluru, and exemplifying *The Hindu*'s contemporary spirit of journalistic inquiry, *The Hindu* Huddle is known for consistently bringing cutting-edge dialogues to our audiences, with experts from across the world engaging in fruitful conversations for change."

Speakers at The Huddle include Union Ministers Ashwini Vaishnaw and Hardeep Singh Puri; Chief Ministers Siddaramaiah, A. Revanth Reddy, and Devendra Fadnavis; former member of the Afghanistan Parliament and former peace negotiator with the Taliban Fawzia Koofi; former cricketers Mithali Raj and Jhulan Goswami; BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia; medical experts Dr. Preetha Reddy, Dr. Anoop Misra, and Dr. Chandrakant Lahariya; actors Nandita Das and Shahana Goswami; and climate change experts Sambuddha Mishra, Vibha Dhawan, and Arunabha Ghosh.

This year, *The Hindu* is taking The Huddle to the youth. Many sessions have been curated specifically for young minds.

In the run-up to the event, *The Hindu* will be hosting mini-Huddles – thought-provoking discussions on topics that matter – across colleges in Bengaluru, Chennai, Delhi, and Mumbai. These are not just debates, but dialogues that aim to inspire, inform, and involve. Interactive activities have been designed to spark engagement and give the live audience a chance to interact directly with the speakers. As Mr. Lakshman says, "As a brand, we have stood firm through the vicissitudes of time and flux in the media ecosystem, to deliver a premium product that puts the interests of the reader, the viewer, and the listener above all else. *The Hindu* Huddle is back with a bang, and it will be an ideas conclave like no other."

Congress, RJD leaders hold talks ahead of grand alliance meeting in Patna tomorrow

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Ahead of a meeting of the constituents of the *Mahagatbandhan*, or the grand alliance of Bihar's Opposition parties, in Patna on Thursday, Tejashwi Yadav and other senior Rashtriya Janata Dal leaders met Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi, and other Congress leaders here on Tuesday.

Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal, the party's Bihar in-charge, Krishna Allavaru, and the RJD's Rajya Sabha members Sanjay Jha and Manoj K. Jha attended the meeting.

Sources said Mr. Kharge had asked for a preliminary discussion before Thursday's meeting to sound out the Congress's concerns. While both sides described it as a "positive meeting", sources said Mr. Gandhi sought a timeline for seat-sharing, which, he said, should not be left for the last minute. Mr. Yadav agreed to it, and suggested a close review of the Assembly election results in 2020, when the alliance fell 16 seats short of the majority mark, to ensure that the past mistakes were not repeated. He stressed that the division of seats between the allies should be based on the ground realities.

Gearing up: Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and RJD leader Tejashwi Yadav during a meeting in New Delhi on Tuesday. PTI

The Congress won only 19 of the 70 seats it fought in 2020. The party has indicated a willingness to contest fewer seats this time, if allotted those with better chances to win.

Mr. Yadav said the caste arithmetic should be carefully worked out between the partners, to ensure a wider outreach beyond the traditional vote bank of each ally, sources added.

The two parties agreed that the alliance should frame a cohesive narrative after deliberations. The finer details, both sides said, will be worked out in the Patna meeting.

Recent statements by Congress leaders that the Chief Minister candidate will be collectively decided after the elections have caused disquiet in the RJD ranks. Addressing the question at the conclusion of the meeting, Mr. Yadav said, "I don't know why you all are worried about the CM face, we will talk among ourselves and decide."

In a post in Hindi on X, Mr. Kharge said this time change was certain in Bihar.

"In the coming elections, we will give the people of Bihar a strong, positive, just and welfare option. Bihar will be freed from BJP and its opportunistic thug alliance," he said.

Nitish will become Bihar CM after polls, says his son

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Nishant Kumar, son of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar, on Tuesday expressed his faith in the assurance given by BJP leader and Union Minister Amit Shah that his father will be the Chief Minister after the election.

His statement comes as a counter to a cryptic remark made by Haryana Chief Minister Nayab Singh Saini indicating that the Bihar Assembly election will be contested under the leadership of BJP leader and Deputy Chief Minister Samrat Choudhary.

Several leaders of the Rashtriya Janata Dal, including Tejashwi Yadav, have been saying that the BJP will not continue with Mr. Nitish.

Asked about the Opposition claims that the Bharatiya Janata Party will not make his father the Chief Minister after the election, Mr. Nishant said, "Why will the BJP not do so? Amit uncle has recently said he [Nitish] will become the Chief Minister and even Samrat Choudhary has been saying that my father has been their leader for the past 15 years. People should not raise such questions. It is very much clear from their statements."

Shibu Soren appoints Hemant JMM chief, BJP slams decision

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

My responsibility is to take JMM to the national level, says new party president

Jharkhand Chief Minister Hemant Soren was on Tuesday appointed the central president of the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha by his father and party founder, Shibu Soren.

Mr. Shibu Soren, who held the post for 38 years, will now be the founder-patron of the party. The formal announcement was made on the concluding day of the 13th Central Convention of the JMM at Khelgaon in Ranchi.

"This change will further strengthen the legacy of the JMM. My father established the party as a regional movement, and now it is my responsibility to take it to the national level," Mr. Hemant said.

Jharkhand BJP's State spokesperson Pratul Sahdev took a dig at the JMM's convention alleging that instead of Jharkhand's welfare, only family welfare was implemented at the meeting.

Cong. to lead peace march in Nagpur after violence

Abhinay Deshpande
MUMBAI

Maharashtra Congress leader Vijay Wadettiwar on Tuesday announced plans for a *Sadbhavana Shanti Yatra* in Nagpur, aiming to restore communal harmony following recent violent clashes over a demand to remove the grave of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb.

The peace initiative comes after the March 17 disturbances that saw stone-throwing and arson across parts of the city. The violence was triggered by rumours about the desecration of a religious text during protests demanding the removal of Aurangzeb's grave.

"Through this march, we seek to bridge divides, clarify misconceptions, and rebuild mutual trust between communities," he said.

Meanwhile, the police reported significant progress in the probe, with Nagpur Police Commissioner Ravinder Singal confirming 114 detentions and 13 cases related to the violence. The Nagpur Municipal Corporation's anti-encroachment team demolished unauthorised constructions at residences of two accused – Yusuf Sheikh and Faheem Khan.

Rahul to launch new method of appointing Cong. district unit heads

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi on Tuesday addressed an orientation meeting with the observers of the All India Congress Committee and the Pradesh Congress Committee in Ahmedabad to discuss the process of identifying and selecting presidents of 41 district units in Gujarat as part of a pilot project.

General secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal and AICC general secretary for Gujarat Mukul Wasnik were present.

"On Wednesday, the pilot project will be launched from Aravalli district in north Gujarat where Rahul*ji* will hold a dialogue with district-level leaders and later meet booth-level party workers. This pilot programme is being launched from a district with 8.51 lakh voters," Gujarat Congress chief Shaktisinh Gohil said.

In the recently concluded two-day Ahmedabad AICC session, the party had said that the District Congress Committee (DCCs) would be the foundation of the decision-making structure of the party. They would be empowered as well as made accountable for the party's performance, it said.

Key changes: Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at the orientation programme in Ahmedabad on Tuesday. ANI

Teams of observers will suggest six names for each post of district unit chief The final selection will be made by May 31.

On April 12, the AICC appointed 42 AICC and 183 PCC observers for overseeing the appointment of party committee presidents in 33 districts and eight major cities of Gujarat.

A panel of five observers - one from the AICC and four from the PCC - will visit the district unit assigned to it, stay in the district for at least three days and meet local party workers and people.

"A five-member team of observers will visit all 41 district units between April 23 and May 8," former State Congress chief Jagdish Thakor said.

Delhi HC denies bail to separatist leader Nayeem Ahmad Khan

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Delhi High Court has denied bail to separatist leader Nayeem Ahmad Khan, held in 2017 in a terror-funding case involving Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorist leader Hafiz Saeed.

The court said an undertrial's long incarceration cannot be a ground to grant bail in such cases aimed at destabilising the country. The accused had challenged a trial court order against his bail plea. Citing the period of custody undergone by him and his fundamental right to liberty, he said he ought to be granted bail.

The Hurriyat Conference leader was arrested on July 24, 2017, and is currently in judicial custody.

RAJASTHAN RAJYA VIDYUT PRASARAN NIGAM LIMITED
NOTICE INVITING BID

Bids for "Construction of 220/132 kV, 2 x 160 MVA & 132/33 kV 2 x 50 MVA, 220/132/33 kV GIS substation at Gokul Nagar (Kalwar road) in Jaipur district alongwith associated lines including survey, supply of all equipment's/materials, erection (including civil works), testing and commissioning, against specification no. RVPN/EHV/A&SP/TN-140(UBN: VPN2526WLOB00085) are invited from interested bidders up to 04:00PM, 14.05.2025.For other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal **(http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** of the state & **https://energy.rajasthan.gov.in/rrvpn** departmental website.

Superintending Engineer (Automation, N/M and SP), Jaipur

Raj.Samwad/C/25/658 RRVPN/TR-6768/2025

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Tender Notice No. 01/TGMSIDC/EQU/2025-26, Dated: 16.04.2025
Tenders are invited through e-Procurement Platform (online) during the FY 2025-26 under various schemes of NHM, DME, TVVP and DoPH.
A. Procurement & Supply of Medical Equipment, Furniture Items & Other items if any to Government Hospitals/ Institutions in the State of Telangana under the Rate Contract and **B.** Mechanized laundry services with supply of bed sheets for all tertiary care & secondary care facilities functioning under DME and TVVP.
For complete details, please visit website **https://tender.telangana.gov.in** and **http://www.tgmsidc.telangana.gov.in** from **16.04.2025 onwards** time to time. The Managing Director, TGMSIDC reserves the right to cancel the tenders at any time without assigning any reasons.
DIPR R.O.No.428-PP/CL/ADVT/1/2025-26 Dt. 15.04.2025 **Sd/- MANAGING DIRECTOR**

Kerala State Council for Science, Technology and Environment (KSCSTE)
Sasthrabhavan, Pattom, Thiruvananthapuram-695004, Phone: 0471- 2548316, website: www.kscste.kerala.gov.in

NOTIFICATION

The last date for the receipt of application for the post of Director, KSCSTE-NATPAC is extended to **24.04.2025, 5.00 pm**
For details log on to www.kscste.kerala.gov.in.
MEMBER SECRETARY
D3/324/2025/I&PRD

Government of Odisha
"e" procurement Notice No-01
PH. No. 0674–2540603, E-mail Id: senhcnorth_bbsr@rediffmail.com
Identification No. 01/CCE NH, NORTHERN of 2025-26

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Value of Work (Rs.in lakh)	Period of completion (in calendar months)	Last date / Time for receipt of bids	Date of opening of tender	Name and address of the officer inviting tender
01	S/R to NH-316 (Temple Link) such as Laying 30 mm thick BC from Km.0/000 to 1/600 and Km. 59/000 to 59/900 (in stretches) from Temple Office to Gundicha Temple for the year 2025-26.	399.00	01 (One)	29.04.2025 upto 17.30 hours.	30.04.2025 AT 11.30 hours	Chief Construction Engineer, O/o the Chief Construction Engineer, Northern NH Circle, Unit-IX (Flat), Bhubaneswar - 22.

02. Further details can be seen from the "e" procurement **website www.tendersodisha.gov.in** with effect **from 10.00 hours of 15.04.2025.**
03. Addendum / Corrigendum / Cancellation of tender if required shall be hosted in the aforesaid website only.
04. The authority reserves the right to cancel any / all bids without assigning any reason.

Chief Construction Engineer, Northern NH Circle, Bhubaneswar.
b-01: OIPR-34183/11/0003/2526

INBRIEF

INSV Tarini departs from Cape Town on final leg

The Indian Navy Sailing Vessel *Tarini* has set sail from Cape Town, South Africa, for Goa, on the final leg of a global circumnavigation. The voyage, part of the Navika Sagar Parikrama-II initiative, is being undertaken by two women officers, Lieutenant-Commander Dilna K. and Lieutenant-Commander Roopa A. The vessel is expected to reach Goa by the end of May. The Navy stated that the circumnavigation was a significant endeavour aimed at promoting ocean sailing in India, showcasing the strength and resilience of Indian women in uniform, and highlighting the country's indigenous shipbuilding capabilities.

Ayodhya Ram temple receives warning of security threat

The Ram Temple Trust has received a warning about a security risk to the temple in Ayodhya. Receiving a warning by mail on Monday night, the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust alerted authorities to strengthen security at the temple. It then filed a complaint with the cyber cell unit of the district police, which launched an investigation. Recently, the temple's building construction committee chairperson, Nripendra Misra, said that a four-kilometre security wall would soon be built around the Ram temple. "Engineers India Limited will construct the security wall. The wall's height, thickness and design has been decided," he added.

Beware of child traffickers, top court cautions parents

Supreme Court says licence of hospitals will be suspended if newborn babies go missing; Bench asks High Courts to ensure pending child-trafficking case trials are completed within six months

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court, in a judgment on Tuesday, warned parents to be "extremely vigilant" against gangs trafficking children for sexual exploitation, forced labour, begging, petty crimes, armed conflict, and child marriage and even camouflaging sale of infants as inter-country adoption.

A Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and R. Mahadevan gave a chilling portrayal of the helplessness of child victims and their loved ones, mostly drawn from the poor sections of society and hardly equipped to deal with the well-networked child kidnapping rackets which use technology to share information, photos, and locations of victims and to transfer money.

"We want to convey a message to one and all, more particularly to parents across the country, that they should remain extremely vigilant and careful with their children. A slight carelessness or negligence or laxity on their part may prove to be extremely costly. The pain and agony which parents may have to face when a child dies is different from the pain and agony that parents may have to face when they lose their children to such gangs engaged in trafficking," Justice Pardiwala observed.

> A slight carelessness or negligence or laxity on their part may prove to be extremely costly. The pain and agony which parents may have to face when a child dies is different from the pain and agony that parents may have to face when they lose their children to such gangs engaged in trafficking
>
> **JUSTICE J.B. PARDIWALA**
> Supreme Court Judge

The court said there was no closure for parents whose children were lost.

Plea against bail

The 95-page verdict was on an appeal filed by the parents of victims through senior advocate Aparna Bhat against bail granted by the Allahabad High Court to 13 members of an inter-State child trafficking ring, most of whom have absconded with their whereabouts unknown to the police. At least one of the accused was a nurse serving in a primary health centre in Chhattisgarh.

The court held that hospitals would have their licence suspended and be exposed to legal action if newborns were found missing and trafficked.

"When any woman comes to deliver her baby in any hospital, it is the responsibility of the administration of the hospital to protect the newborn infant in all respects," Justice Pardiwala ordered.

The court said trafficking of children to force them into crime was on the rise due to the protections offered to minors in the juvenile justice system. "A protection mechanism for children is exploited as a safe haven for committing heinous crimes," it said.

Justice Pardiwala said that significant waiting periods for adoption in India had encouraged criminal networks to engage in large-scale abduction and sale of children.

The Bench cancelled the bail granted to the accused by the High Court. It said the decision of the High Court to set them at liberty was a "very callous" one. The apex court ordered their trial be completed in six months. The police were given two months' time to trace the absconding accused persons.

The Bench said the Uttar Pradesh government had hardly bothered to even appeal against the High Court decision. "We are thoroughly disappointed with the manner in which the State handled the situation... The State, unfortunately, has exhibited no seriousness worth the name," Justice Pardiwala noted.

The High Courts across the country were asked to pull up all pending cases of child trafficking and ensure that the trials were completed in six months.

IIT, NIT placement data show job market stagnation: Congress

'State of engineers at premier institutions raises worry over job opportunities for larger population'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Citing a recent report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, the Congress on Tuesday raised concern over "large-scale stagnation in job markets".

The panel, headed by senior Congress MP Digvijaya Singh, had flagged an "unusual decline" in placement of students at the Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) and the National Institutes of Technology (NIT) between 2021-22 and 2023-24, and asked the Centre to address the reasons for this drop.

'22 IITs show decline'

Commenting on the report, Congress general secretary and MP Jairam Ramesh said 22 of the 23 IITs recorded a decline in placements in this period.

"The drop was over 10 percentage points at 15 IITs. In 2021-22, 90.43% of B.Tech. students at IITs who appeared for placements were placed – in 2023-24, only 80.25% of the students secured jobs. Twenty-three of the 25 Indian Institutes of Information Technology witnessed a drop in the placement in 2023-24 compared to 2021-22. Sixteen of them saw a decline of over 10 percentage points," Mr. Ramesh said in a statement.

He said 27 of the 31 NITs recorded a fall in average salary packages offered to engineering graduates between 2022-23 and 2023-24. "Three of these institutes saw the average package decline by over ₹3 lakh per annum. In the same years, the number of students placed at 31 NITs also dropped from 18,957 to 16,915, a decrease of 10.77%," he added.

The IITs are the nation's premier institutions for engineering, he said. "Engineering is moreover considered to be among the most marketable of all degrees. If one-fifth of the engineers at IITs are unable to find jobs, it raises concern over how the larger population of educated youth in this country is able to secure employment. Indeed, the fact that NITs and IIITs are also seeing a decline in placements points to a large-scale stagnation in job markets," he added.

Ranjit Nair, philosopher and passionate advocate of science, passes away

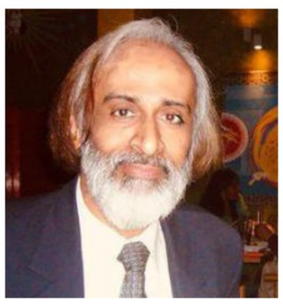
Jacob P. Koshy
NEW DELHI

Ranjit Nair, intellectual and founder of the Centre for Philosophy and Foundations of Science (CPFS), died of a cardiac arrest at his residence here on Monday. He was 70.

Passionately committed to popularising science, the CPFS, led by Dr. Nair, played a key role in getting world-renowned scientists to lecture in India.

Cambridge astrophysicist Stephen Hawking, who lectured in New Delhi and Mumbai in 2001, came on an invitation facilitated by the CPFS.

In 2005, the CPFS organised lectures here by Roger Penrose, co-winner of the Nobel Prize for Physics in 2020.


Ranjit Nair

These were in a large way possible due to the personal relationships and contacts Dr. Nair nurtured during his years in the United Kingdom.

A writer himself, Dr. Nair has works such as *Mind, Matter and Mystery* and *The Republic of Science*.

He edited the voluminous, collected works of E.C.G. Sudarshan, the Kerala-trained physicist who then worked in several leading American universities. Despite significant contributions to the fundamental physics of matter, Dr. Sudarshan was said to have been denied a Nobel Prize twice.

"He was somebody who was strenuously engaged, indefatigable I would say, in getting top quality minds to India. There are few people who are as committed to the cause of science dissemination as Professor Nair," K. Vijay Raghavan, biologist and former Principal Scientific Advisor (PSA), told *The Hindu*.

A lifelong champion of Indian science and its history, Dr. Nair played a key role in getting a bust of Jagadish Chandra Bose installed at Christ College, Cambridge, of which he was an alumnus.

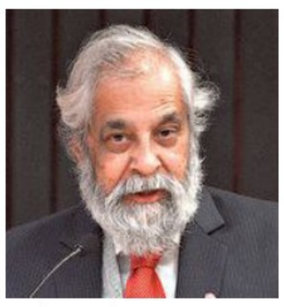
Extraditions tough till conditions improve in prisons: Justice Lokur

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Even as India seeks the return of fugitive diamond businessman Mehul Choksi, accused of fraud to the tune of ₹13,578 crore in the Punjab National Bank case, former Supreme Court Justice Madan B. Lokur warned on Tuesday that such extraditions will be difficult until conditions are improved in Indian prisons. Justice Lokur chairs the United Nations Internal Justice Council.

He was speaking at the release of the India Justice Report, 2025, an initiative started by the Tata Trusts and supported by several civil society organisations and data partners. They collectively track the performance of States across four areas: police, judiciary, prisons and legal aid.

Justice Lokur cited the recent judgment of a U.K. court that denied the extradition of Sanjay Bhandari, a defence consultant wanted on charges of tax evasion and money laundering, citing the unsafe conditions inside the Tihar Jail in Delhi.


Madan B. Lokur

Justice Lokur, who said that he had read the appellate court order, added that the extradition was refused on the ground of torture and the conditions of jails in India. He also claimed that the U.K. court had asked the Indian government for assurances about the conditions in jail four times, but was only given a wishy-washy reply.

"U.K. court had mentioned the matter of Christian Michel, who is in a jail for many years. Recently, Michel was granted bail and he said he doesn't want it. Why? If I get bail, there will be certain conditions that will be put on me. Instead, my total imprisonment, even if found guilty, will be over in about four to five months... So, I prefer to be in jail for five to six months rather than subject myself to conditions of the bail. This is one case mentioned by them," Justice Lokur said.

Michel is an alleged middleman in the Agustawestland case and has been in Tihar jail since 2018.

Justice Lokur said that the U.K. court had also noted the case of Jagtar Johal, who died in an Indian jail, along with the case of Tillu Tajpuria, who too was murdered in Tihar.

IJR findings

Meanwhile, the IJR 2025 listed serious loopholes in the Indian judiciary, police, prisons and legal aides. The report stated just one civil police official is available for 831 people in India and that not a single State or Union Territory meets its own reserved quotas for women in police force.

It added that about 17% of police stations in the country do not have a single CCTV, while three in 10 police stations do not have women help desks.

The IJR reveals that there are fewer than 1,000 women in senior positions among the 20.3 lakh police personnel. Uttar Pradesh has the most overcrowded prisons. Also, 91% of Delhi's prison population consisted of under-trials.

Saudi Arabia reopens Haj portal to allow more Indians

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Saudi Arabia's Haj Ministry has agreed to reopen the portal for the annual pilgrimage, to allow private operators to make arrangements for 10,000 Indian pilgrims, based on the current space availability in Mina, the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs said on Tuesday.

The Ministry also explained the rationale behind the reported cancellation of more than 52,000 Haj slots allocated to India this year, blaming private tour operators for delay in the quota assigned to them.

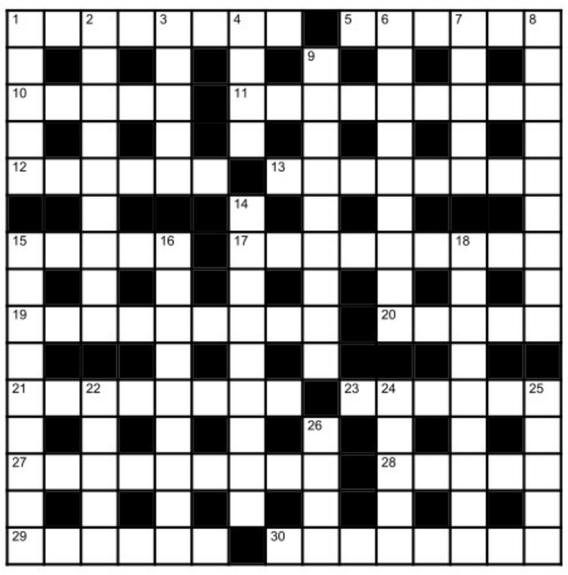
The Ministry's statement came a day after Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah and Opposition parties voiced concern about the reported cancellation of Haj slots.

TH CROSSWORD + 14460

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Pam, cartographer (3,5)
5 An increase in sea level, too (2,4)
10 Undress in cartoons in a row (5)
11 Give a disproportionately large response from rattled EV creator (9)
12 Undergo misery resulting from bad ruse involving a couple of females (6)
13 Hmm, a ploy engineered to produce cancer (8)
15 Kind of pottery from Delaware starts to fade temporarily (5)
17 Putting to use and wrapping lungi, I sit (9)
19 After wrong post, see timer (9)
20 General in charge of genes? (5)
21 Indian actor laid back during meal (8)
23 Chop chops around end of day in horror movie (6)
27 Previous Welsh rite is re-enacted (9)
28 Bond actor's chief of MI6 (5)
29 Gives back money as prey is lost (6)
30 Goes before party leader goes back (8)

Down

1 Supporters from Massachusetts streets (5)
2 Left sheet of paper showing list of securities held (9)
3 Sufficient quantity for testing, not small (5)
4 Hero stands protecting god of love (4)
6 Big and strong son's catching animals (9)
7 Muse and orate badly (5)
8 Lazy? Crush the garlic! (9)
9 Extremely low weighing source of illumination in the battlefield (4,5)
14 A lariat thrown around you and me in country (9)
15 Wrongly said paper is torn? Go away! (9)
16 Pulled along to get married in another town (5,4)
18 Erroneously, icon bid on connection between chemical units (5,4)
22 A Spanish operation to get a story writer (5)
24 Plant protected by Satsuma clan (5)
25 Follows command from old governor and head of state (5)
26 Cut beverage straw in the middle (4)

SUDOKU

1			4					7
2				1	8	5		
7		8						
4			8	6			2	
8		9				1		3
	2			5	1			8
						3		4
		4	6	9				2
6					2			5

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

C	O	C	O	O	N	■	A	M	A	R	I	L	L	O
L	■	A	■	N	■	T	■	A	■	A	■	A	■	C
A	M	B	I	T	I	O	U	S	■	N	A	U	R	U
N	■	I	■	H	■	I	■	H	■	C	■	N	■	L
G	E	N	T	E	E	L	■	E	C	H	I	D	N	A
O	■	E	■	N	■	E	■	D	■	■	■	E	■	R
U	L	T	R	A	■	T	A	P	E	S	T	R	Y	■
R	■	■	■	I	■	T	■	O	■	E	■	■	■	I
■	C	E	L	L	A	R	E	T	■	M	O	R	O	N
I	■	M	■	■	■	A	■	A	■	I	■	E	■	P
M	A	E	S	T	R	I	■	T	A	C	T	I	L	E
P	■	R	■	I	■	N	■	O	■	O	■	S	■	R
A	W	A	R	D	■	I	D	E	A	L	I	S	T	S
I	■	L	■	E	■	N	■	S	■	O	■	U	■	O
R	E	D	E	S	I	G	N	■	I	N	T	E	R	N

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

1	3	9	6	8	4	5	7	2
8	7	2	9	5	3	1	4	6
4	5	6	1	2	7	8	3	9
6	8	3	5	7	9	4	2	1
9	4	5	2	1	6	7	8	3
2	1	7	3	4	8	6	9	5
5	6	8	4	3	2	9	1	7
7	2	1	8	9	5	3	6	4
3	9	4	7	6	1	2	5	8

FAITH

Reading of almanac

Tamil New Year (Viswavasu) is ushered in with prayers, offerings and pitru preeti, with panchanga patanam (reading of the almanac) being an invariable component of the day. Why is reading of the almanac so important? Our sastras say that God conducts everything in the universe by being the personification of time, and such time is the computation by the almanac, based on the movement of the sun and the moon. The panchangam takes five aspects mainly into consideration, and the details thereof should be read and understood by one and all, from the young to the old, said B. Damodara Dikshidhar.

The almanac consists of five aspects, namely, tithi, varam (week), nakshatram (stars), yogam and karanam. All these five have a role to play in our daily lives. While a number of aspects of the almanac may not be easy for all to comprehend, reading of the same before stepping out of home will help one in one's actions. If the almanac recommends a day as being auspicious, one can start on new ventures. A Tamil proverb states, *Naal udhavuvadhu pol, nanban udhava maattan* (Even a friend will not be as helpful as an auspicious day). One may also argue saying there is no scientific basis to say that karanam can affect anyone. However, if the karanam (12 hours of a day is karanam) is inauspicious, one should avoid any fresh undertakings. Not for nothing is there another popular Tamil proverb, stating '*Karanam thappinal maranam*' (meaning a narrow escape). In the olden days, parents used to teach children the name of the years (60 in all), the stars, the planets, the tithis and other information contained in the almanac as a daily ritual.

INBRIEF

Gems, jewellery exports fell 11.72% in FY25: GJEPC

India's overall gems and jewellery exports declined by 11.72% to $28.5 billion (around ₹2.41 lakh crore) in 2024-25 on continued geopolitical tensions, according to the Gem & Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC). The overall exports stood at $32.2 billion (₹2.67 lakh crore) in 2023-24. "The correction in rough diamond prices by 10-15% impacted the value, causing the overall decline in exports," said GJEPC Chairman Kirit Bhansali. PTI

Bank credit to grow by 100-200 bps this fiscal: Crisil

Bank credit this fiscal is expected to grow 100-200 basis points (bps) to 12-13% as compared with 11-11.5% estimated for fiscal 2025, given three tailwinds, Crisil Ratings said in a report. These include recent supportive regulatory measures, a boost to consumption from tax cuts, and softer interest rates, it added. According to Crisil, corporate credit growth will be supported by the downstream demand from the ongoing infrastructure buildout.

ICICI Prudential Life FY25 PAT surges 39.6% to ₹1,189 cr.

ICICI Prudential Life Insurance reported a 39.6% year-on-year (YoY) jump in net profit to ₹1,189 crore for financial year ended March 31, 2025. The value of new business (VNB), which represents the present value of future profits, stood at ₹2,370 crore with a VNB margin of 22.8% in FY25. The board approved a final dividend of ₹0.85 per equity share for FY2025. The total annualised premium equivalent (APE) grew 15% YoY to ₹10,407 crore in FY25.

'SEBI having a relook at rule curbing AMCs' business activities'

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) is reviewing the mutual fund (MF) regulations that place restrictions on the business activities of asset management companies (AMC), said executive director Manoj Kumar.

"We are doing a significant review of regulation 24. This is the only restrictive clause under the mutual fund regulation," he said at the CII Mutual Fund Summit here on Tuesday.

Clause 24 of the mutual fund regulation deals with the issues pertaining to business activities that AMCs can undertake. The regulation mandates AMCs not to undertake business activities that are in conflict of interest with the core business of MF schemes.

It mandates SEBI's approval to advise or provide consultancy to foreign funds. It also makes sure the bank and securities accounts are maintained separately and there are separate fund managers for different funds.

Mutual fund companies said this made it difficult for them to expand into different businesses and a relaxation would help them to enter more lucrative avenues. "We are also trying to review the entire regulation because we have come to notice that MF regulation is the lengthiest regulation, so that calls for a comprehensive review," Mr. Kumar added.

Sensex gains 1,578 points on banking, auto stocks buying

NSE Nifty-50 index surges 500 points, or 2.19%, to 23,329; rupee continues winning streak for second straight session, appreciates 30 paise against U.S. dollar to settle at 85.80

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

With buying momentum, Indian frontline indices on Tuesday surged over 2% led by buying in banking and auto stocks.

The S&P BSE Sensex gained 1,578 points, or 2.10%, to 76,735 points led by IndusInd Bank (6.84), Tata Motors (4.50%), L&T (4.50%), Axis Bank (4.18%), Adani Ports (4.02%) and HDFC Bank (3.23%).

While the BSE Midcap index gained 3.03%, the BSE Smallcap had risen 3.21%.

The NSE Nifty-50 index too surged 500 points, or 2.19%, to 23,329 points.

"It was yet another gap-up opening for the markets, where Nifty opened by 540 points. After a strong opening, Nifty managed to sustain at a higher level. From April 7's low of 21,743, Nifty has risen more than 1,600 points in a span of five trading sessions," said Nandish Shah, deputy vice president, HDFC Securities.

Trading volumes on the NSE cash market saw a 7% increase compared with the previous close, indicating strong participation, he added

Adding to the positive sentiment, the rupee continued its winning streak for the second straight session, appreciating by 30 paisa against the U.S. dollar to settle at 85.80.

"This strength was fuelled by the buoyant equity markets, some easing in tariff concerns, and a weakening dollar amid President Trump's evolving stance on reciprocal duties," said Mr. Shah.

Bourses and buys

With buying momentum, Indian frontline indices on Tuesday surged more than 2% led by buying in banking and auto stocks

- Sensex gains were led by IndusInd Bank (6.84), Tata Motors (4.50%), Axis Bank (4.18%), HDFC Bank (3.23%)
- From April 7's low of 21,743, Nifty has risen more than 1,600 points in a span of five trading sessions
- Trading volumes on NSE cash market see 7% increase compared with the previous close

Flat exports, high imports widen trade deficit to $21.54 bn

Amiti Sen
NEW DELHI

The country's trade deficit widened significantly to $21.54 billion in March, compared with $15.34 billion in March 2024, as imports surged 11.4% to $63.51 billion and exports rose a meagre 0.7% to $41.97 billion.

Persistent global uncertainties due to geopolitical tensions kept goods exports in 2024-25 remaining almost flat at $437.42 billion compared with $437.07 billion in 2023-24.

Imports in 2024-25 increased 6.2% to $720.24 billion. Trade deficit in FY25 increased to $282.82 billion compared with $241.14 billion in the previous fiscal. The past fiscal year was a difficult one due to intense geopolitical tensions and slowdown in key economies, Commerce Secretary Sunil Barthwal said during a press interaction.

(The writer is with The Hindu businessline)

'Auto sales jump 7.3%, expected to sustain growth momentum'

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

Domestic automobile sales in FY25 grew 7.3% to 2,56,07,391 units compared with 2,38,57,411 units in FY24, while exports rose 19.2%, reflecting strong global demand, according to the Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers' (SIAM) data.

"The performance was driven by healthy demand, infrastructure investments, supportive government policies, and continued emphasis on sustainable mobility. Sound economic policies and positive market sentiment helped in maintaining growth," SIAM said.

During the financial year, passenger vehicles (PV) posted the highest ever sales of 43 lakh units, a growth of 2% over the previous year. PVs also saw their highest ever exports at 7.70 lakh units, a growth of 14.6% from FY24, according to SIAM data.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	TUESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	76,735	2.10
US Dollar	85.80	0.34
Gold	96,450	0.05
Brent oil	64.40	—

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2418.20	96.80
Adani Ports	1210.80	46.25
Apollo Hosp	6905.00	124.05
Asian Paints	2415.70	22.10
Axis Bank	1112.80	43.85
Bajaj Auto	7995.50	226.65
Bajaj Finserv	1968.00	21.70
Bajaj Finance	9141.00	219.90
Bharat Elec	293.70	8.70
Bharti Airtel	1798.80	42.20
Cipla	1481.80	18.75
Coal India	395.25	3.15
Dr Reddys Lab	1154.90	45.40
Eicher Motors	5529.00	178.10
Eternal Ltd.	222.23	5.03
Grasim Ind	2718.60	67.35
HCL Tech	1426.50	35.95
HDFC Bank	1864.90	58.15
HDFC Life	704.70	19.15
Hero MotoCorp	3803.90	137.90
Hindalco	617.60	17.30
Hind Unilever	2361.50	-4.65
ICICI Bank	1350.20	38.55
IndusInd Bank	735.90	46.40
Infosys	1426.00	16.55
ITC	420.40	-1.15
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	238.57	8.55
JSW Steel	1008.00	17.75
Kotak Bank	2120.20	9.00
L&T	3257.60	141.65
M&M	2646.00	65.65
Maruti Suzuki	11855.00	255.95
NestleIndia	2367.90	6.50
NTPC	362.50	2.40
ONGC	232.69	2.32
PowerGrid Corp	304.55	0.45
Reliance Ind	1240.10	21.15
SBI Life	1562.60	40.70
State Bank	763.50	9.65
Shriram Finance Ltd.	672.00	33.20
Sun Pharma	1705.00	17.45
TataConsumerProduct	1103.40	5.50
Tata Motors	622.20	27.15
Tata Steel	136.41	2.99
TCS	3248.20	16.70
Tech Mahindra	1301.70	19.45
Titan	3273.40	38.50
Trent Ltd.	4877.00	96.45
UltraTech Cement	11719.00	216.35
Wipro	244.00	4.25

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on April 15

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	85.57	85.89
Euro	96.97	97.35
British Pound	113.28	113.71
Japanese Yen (100)	59.91	60.13
Chinese Yuan	11.70	11.74
Swiss Franc	104.93	105.36
Singapore Dollar	64.98	65.25
Canadian Dollar	61.69	61.93
Malaysian Ringitt	19.38	19.48
Australian Dollar	54.48	54.69

Source:Indian Bank

Sajjan Jindal

JSW Steel may invest up to ₹60,000 cr. in green steel in Maharashtra

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

JSW Steel Ltd. may invest ₹50,000-₹60,000 crore in putting up a 10 million tonne per annum green steel plant at Salav in Maharashtra, JSW Group Chairman Sajjan Jindal said.

The brownfield plant will cater to Europe which is in the process of imposing Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism (CABM).

Speaking at the centenary of Indian Chamber of Commerce, he said the investment, to be made over 3-4 years, would cater to European Union markets.

Initially, the plant will run on natural gas and then switch over to hydrogen as technology evolved. The green steel produced will reduce carbon emission by one-fifth, he said.

On the proposed anti-dumping duty on steel imports, he said the Steel Ministry had recommended a higher levy but the government should at least start with the Commerce Ministry proposal and hopefully it is implemented soon.

He termed the situation arising out of U.S. President Donald Trump's tariffs as transitionary. On MG Motors, he said his goal was to make high quality cars at a low cost.

Indian airlines get $80-mn tax bills for leasing aircraft: Ishka

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

Ishka warned the development could dissuade lessors from doing business with Indian airlines

Indian tax authorities have slapped bills of up to $80 million, or ₹685 crore, on multiple airlines for leasing aircraft, of which 85% are linked to IndiGo, as per an industry note by a global aviation data, intelligence and advisory firm Ishka. The liabilities are for financial year 2022-2023.

"India is a jurisdiction that taxes finance leases, and Ishka understands the Indian tax authority surprised lessors with tax audits reclassifying dozens of operating leases as finance leases opening up lessors to a 10% Income Tax on the lease," the London-based advisory firm said.

The audit scope includes multiple airlines, including Air India and some smaller carriers.

IndiGo has operating lease pacts with several lessors, including Avolon, Aviation Capital Group, AerCap, BOC Aviation, Carlyle Aviation Partners, and SMBC Aviation Capital. But according to the Ishka note, it was not clear which lessors were included in the alleged tax liabilities.

Recently, IndiGo informed bourses it received a penalty order of ₹944.20 crore from the I-T Department for 2021-22 assessment year. It said it considered the order "erroneous" and vowed to challenge it legally.

Unprecedented 'scale'

"I'm not aware of any jurisdiction ever challenging cross-border aircraft leases in this way. In my 20 years, I've never seen anything like it," the report quotes a senior European tax partner familiar with the case who added "there have been instances in the past when the tax authorities in some other jurisdictions produced individual audits or did challenge a small cohort of leases, but never anything on this scale."

In an operational lease the leasing firm retains ownership and bears the risk or rewards of the asset and the lessee uses the asset for a shorter term and returns it at the end.

In a finance lease, the lessee assumes most risks or rewards of ownership and the duration of the lease is typically for a longer term and the lessee may have an option to purchase the asset.

Ishka said lessors can face indirect financial exposure and warned the development could dissuade lessors from doing business with Indian airlines.

Ishka rebuked "shifting regulations" resulting in uncertainties for lessors transacting with airlines.

While Ishka opined Gujarat International Financial Tec (GIFT) City, India's special economic project, could offer solutions via favourable tax treatment, several other lessors *The Hindu* spoke to indicated there was widespread feeling in the industry the notices were a strong arm tactic to push leasing firms to set up shop in GIFT City. "This is no way to motivate anyone," a senior Industry executive told *The Hindu*.

Bonds surge to more than 3-year high on RBI's liquidity infusion plan

Reuters
MUMBAI

Indian government bond prices jumped to over three-year highs on Tuesday, led by short-end gains after the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) announced yet another liquidity injection.

Market participants expect continued durable liquidity injections this year, following RBI's latest move and guidance on banking system liquidity. It will buy bonds worth ₹400 billion ($4.67 billion) and also conduct 43-day repo for ₹1.50 trillion on Thursday.

Last week, the central bank reduced repo rate for second consecutive time, and also changed its stance to accommodative.

Why its crucial

The RBI is expected to keep sufficient surplus in the banking system to ensure policy transmission, and is looking at a level of about 1% of deposits, Governor Sanjay Malhotra said last week.

The surplus works out to be in the range of ₹2.20 trillion to ₹2.50 trillion, while daily average banking system liquidity surplus stood at about ₹1.70 trillion for this month.

With the RBI in the middle of its rate-easing cycle, market participants believe, comfortable liquidity conditions are a pre-requisite for quicker and effective monetary policy transmission to aid growth.

Meanwhile, the 10-year benchmark bond yield was down 3 basis points at 6.41%, while the three-year and five-year bond yields fell 5-6 bps to 6.12% and 6.17% respectively.

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS-TIRUPATI
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ENGINEER — **TENDER NOTICE**
ADV No.03/D3/CE/TTD/2025-26 & NIT No.23 /SE-II /TTD/ 2025 -26 Dt:12-04- 2025
Name of work: 1) Providing BC Renewal coat for 1st & 2nd ghat roads, Tirumala. **Amount Rs.1075 Lakhs**, Time for Completion: 3 months. **NOTE:** For full details log on to the Website **https://www.tirumala.org.**
TTD-40021/10/2025-PRO SEC (Adv.No.20) Date:15-04-2025 — **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice
Tender No : SE/PHC/MPM/01-03/2025-26. Jal Jeevan Mission Malappuram District - Vettathur, Melattur, Keezhattur Pancha - 8 Meter Well, 22 MLD WTP, 22LL OHSR Construction and Related Works, Clear Water Supply, Construction and Related Electrical Works in Ooragam Panchayath. **EMD** : Rs. 200000-500000, **Tender fee** : Rs. 11025-16540, **Last Date for submitting Tender :** 08-05-2025 03:00:pm, **Phone :** 04832974871, **Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in**
Superintending Engineer
KWA-JB-GL-6-8-2025-26 — PH Circle, Malappuram

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
CMG, SDSC - SHAR SRIHARIKOTA - 524124
Brief E-TENDER NOTICE : CORRIGENDUM-A (SALE EXTENSION)
No:SHAR:CMG:CIVIL:MAINT:E-PT-22(A)/24-25 Dt: 15.04.2025
Kindly refer to E-Public Tender-22/24-25 dt 21.03.25 **"Replacement of damaged Joinery items in 136 nos of Type- IV, VII, VIII quarters in PHC-I & II area, SDSC SHAR"** (T/C-24-078, Est. cost ₹ 52.78 Lakhs); **"Providing barbed wire fencing, Partitioning with Galvalume sheet, MS gate, Approach Road formation with debris etc., for the dumping yard, QCH, SDSC SHAR"** (T/C-24-080, Est. cost ₹ 7.85 Lakhs); **"Structural Repairs to SDMH at Sullurupeta, SDSC SHAR"** (T/C-24-081, Est. cost ₹ 7.49 Lakhs); **"Periodical testing of water and sewage samples in SHAR, Sullurupeta Housing colonies and other inside facilities at SDSC SHAR for the years 2025-26 & 2026-27"** (T/C-24-082, Est. cost ₹ 7.89 Lakhs). **Sale period extended up to 28.04.2025**. Interested tenderers may visit **www.isro.gov.in** or **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** for details.
Sd/- GROUP HEAD, CMG/SDSC SHAR

सी.एस.आई.आर. मद्रास कॉम्प्लेक्स
CSIR MADRAS COMPLEX
सीएसआईआर रोड,सीएसआईआर परिसर, तरमणि, चेन्नै
CSIR Road, CSIR Campus, Taramani, Chennai-600113.
विज्ञापन सं. 01/2025 / ADVERTISEMENT NO. 01/2025
निम्नलिखित पदों के लिए भारतीय नागरिकों से आवेदन आमंत्रित किए जाते हैं:-
Applications are invited from Indian Nationals for the following posts:-

पद / Post	वेतन मैट्रिक्स में वेतन स्तर/ Pay Level in Pay Matrix	पद की संख्या/ No.of post (s)	आरक्षण / Reservation
कनिष्ठ सचिवालय सहायक (सा) - हिंदी/ Junior Secretariat Assistant (Gen) - Hindi	स्तर -2 / Level-2 (₹.19900 - 63200)	01	OBC - 01
कनिष्ठ सचिवालय सहायक (वित्त एवं लेखा)/ Junior Secretariat Assistant (F&A)	स्तर -2 / Level-2 (₹.19900 - 63200)	02	UR - 01 SC - 01
कनिष्ठ सचिवालय सहायक (भंडार एवं क्रय)/ Junior Secretariat Assistant (S&P)	स्तर -2 / Level-2 (₹.19900 - 63200)	01	EWS - 01
कनिष्ठ आशुलिपिक/ Junior Stenographer	स्तर -4 / Level-4 (₹.25500 - 81100)	04	UR - 03 OBC - 01

ऑनलाइन आवेदन प्रारंभ होने की तिथि/ Date of commencement of online applications	17-04-2025 (09.00 AM)
ऑनलाइन आवेदन जमा करने की अंतिम तिथि/ Last date for submission of online applications	19-05-2025 (05.00 PM)
ऑनलाइन आवेदन की हार्ड कॉपी प्राप्त करने की अंतिम तिथि/ Last date for receipt of hard copies of online applications	29-05-2025 (05.00 PM)

विस्तृत विज्ञापन के लिए, कृपया सीएसआईआर मद्रास कॉम्प्लेक्स (सीएमसी) की वेबसाइट **http://www.csircmc.res.in** पर जाएं और होम पेज से "CAREERS" पर क्लिक करें। **For detailed Advertisement, please visit CSIR Madras Complex (CMC) website http://www.csircmc.res.in and click on "CAREERS" from the Home Page.**
प्रशासन नियंत्रक / CONTROLLER OF ADMINISTRATION

TNPL TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.
Ph: 04324 - 277001 (10 Lines). E-mail : purchase.pulp@tnpl.co.in
NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Nature of work	Due date
252613 000315	Imported wood chips in Bulk, Species : Eucalyptus	26.04.2025

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions, tender fee, EMD etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**
DIPR/1504/Tender/2025 — *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

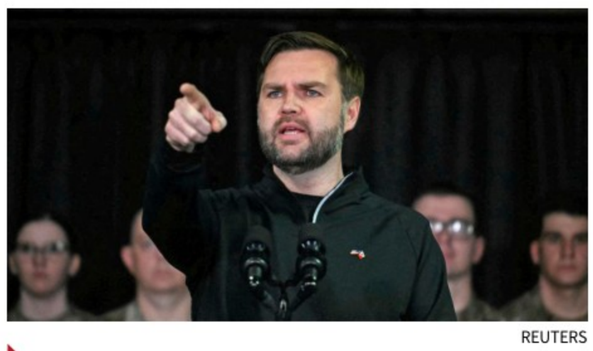
PUNJAB STATE GRAINS PROCUREMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (PUNGRAIN) ANAAJ BHAWAN, SECTOR 39-C, CHANDIGARH
Notice Inviting Tender
Bids are invited under two-bid system i.e. 'Technical Bid' and 'Financial Bid'. from bidders for the purchase of 46000 Low Density Polyethylene Covers (LDPE Covers) for storage of wheat during RMS 2025-26 on behalf of all State Procuring Agencies (Pungrain, PSWC, Punsup and Markfed) in the State of Punjab.
For details log onto: https://eproc.punjab.gov.in or http://foodsuppb.gov.in
Bid Submission Start Date and Time: 05:00 PM on 14.04.2025
Bid Submission Last Date and Time: Till 02:00 PM on 28.04.2025.
Date and time of Opening Technical Bid: At 02:30 PM on 28.04.2025.
Pre-bid Conference: On 17.04.2025 at 02:00 PM in the Committee room, Anaaj Bhawan, Sector 39-C, Chandigarh.
Note: All the prospective bidders including manufacturers & traders registered on GeM portal or any other portal are requested to participate in this tender.
NA/12/29343/2023/43566 — **Managing Director, PUNGRAIN**

ARMY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (AIT), PUNE
(An Autonomous Institution wef AY 2025-26)
Alandi Road, Dighi Hills, Pune- 411015
REQUIRED: DIRECTOR FOR ARMY INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (AIT), PUNE
1. AIT requires Retired defence service officer of the **rank of Maj Gen/ Brig** and equivalent in acceptable medical category, ME/ Mtech, below 60 years. He should mandatorily have experience as instructor in CME/ MCEME/ MCTE/ AWC (FOS).
2. For **Qualitative Requirements** (Mandatory and Preferred) and other information, visit college website **www.aitpune.com**.
3. Applications/ CV to be sent by Post or Email at **dirawes.sc@awesindia.edu.in** or hard copy by post on/ before **25 Apr 2025** to "**Director, AWES Cell, HQ Southern Command, Pin-908541, c/o 56 APO", Tele 020-26363217**.
4. Shorlisted candidates will be called by Email/ Telephone for the interview. Interview likely to be held in 3rd week of May 2025. No TA/ DA will be admissible.
5. Advertisement dt 09 Apr 2025 in 'The Indian Express' & 'The Times of India' stands cancelled.

MSME Technology Development Centre
Process & Product Development Centre
An Autonomous body under Ministry of MSME, Govt of India
Foundry Nagar, Agra - 282006 (U.P.)
Extension Centre - Coimbatore Organizes
Goods & Service Tax Online & Training
Income Tax Practitioner
With New Tax Regime & Portal Updates
GST COURSE CONTENT: 1)Gst Concepts & Transition, 2)Registration, 3)Scope, 4)Time Of Supply, 5)InputTax Credit, 6)Refund, 7)Eway Bill, 8)Returns.
IT COURSE CONTENT: 1)Residential Status, 2)Basis and Scope of charge, 3)Salary income House property income, 4)Capital Gains, 5)Deductions from Income, 6)Income from other sources, 7)Returns filing and forms, 8)Presumptive taxation.
GST (or) IT Registration
GST (5 Days) — Date : 21, 22, 23, 24, 25th Apr 25 — Time: 06.30 P.M - 09.00 P.M — Fees : 3540/- (Inclusive of GST)
Income Tax (5 Days) — Date : 28th Apr - 2nd May 25 — Time: 06.30 P.M - 09.00 P.M — Fees : 3540/- (Inclusive of GST)
GST & IT Combo Registration
COMBO PRICE:
GST + IT Practitioner: Rs.5900/-
GST (5 Days) & Income Tax (5 Days) Only Monday - Friday
Contact: 8667359360, 9600776611, 0422 2993949
Visit us at:www.ppdcagra.dcmsme.gov.in
E- Certificate will be Provided

LONDON

Vance praises trans-Atlantic ties, urges Europe not to be U.S. 'vassal'



REUTERS

U.S. Vice President J.D. Vance praised trans-Atlantic alliances but urged Europe to be more independent, warning against being a permanent U.S. security vassal. He expressed affection for Europe, and anticipated positive U.S.-U.K. trade relations despite challenges with Germany's economic dependence on the U.S. AFP

HANOI

In Vietnam, Xi bats for 'free trade'; Trump slams Chinese leader's tour

AFP

China's President Xi Jinping urged Vietnam to "uphold free trade and oppose unilateral bullying" during his Hanoi visit on Tuesday, signing 45 cooperation agreements on supply chains, AI, and railways. The visit contrasts with U.S. tariffs, which President Trump criticised as efforts to "screw" the U.S. AFP

MANILA

Captured underwater drone sent messages to China, says Philippines

AFP

Five underwater drones found by Philippine fishermen between 2022 and 2024 gathered data for underwater warfare, the country's military said on Tuesday. Some bore Chinese markings, with one relaying signals to China. Found in strategic locations, the drones raise security concerns amid South China Sea tensions. AFP

PARIS

France expels 12 Algerian officials, recalls envoy, says presidency

REUTERS

France's President Emmanuel Macron Tuesday decided to expel 12 Algerian officials and recalled its Ambassador after Algeria ordered 12 French officials to leave. The dispute follows Algeria's arrest of a French consular official and stems from tensions over Western Sahara, security issues, and migration cooperation. AFP

Trump freezes $2.2 bn in grants to Harvard over campus activism

The administration has demanded broad government and leadership reforms at the university, as well as changes to its admissions policies; Harvard President Alan Garber says the institution will not bend to the government's demands

Associated Press
BOSTON

The federal government says it is freezing more than $2.2 billion in grants and $60 million in contracts to Harvard University, after the institution said it would defy the Trump administration's demands to limit activism on campus.

The hold on Harvard's funding marks the seventh time President Donald Trump's administration has taken the step at one of the nation's most elite colleges, in an attempt to force compliance with Mr. Trump's political agenda. Six of the seven schools are in the Ivy League.

Show of power: Students protesting against the war in Gaza at an encampment at Harvard University in Cambridge in April 2024. AP

It sets the stage for a showdown between the federal government and America's oldest and wealthiest university.

In a letter to Harvard on Friday, Mr. Trump's administration had called for broad government and leadership reforms at the university, as well as changes to its admissions policies. It also demanded the university audit views of diversity on campus, and stop recognising some student clubs.

More cuts

The federal government said almost $9 billion in grants and contracts in total were at risk if Harvard did not comply.

On Monday, Harvard President Alan Garber said the university would not bend to the government's demands. "The University will not surrender its independence or relinquish its constitutional rights," Mr. Garber said in a letter to the Harvard community. "No government – regardless of which party is in power – should dictate what private universities can teach, whom they can admit and hire, and which areas of study and inquiry they can pursue."

Hours later, the government froze billions in Harvard's federal funding.

The first university targeted by the Trump administration was Columbia, which acquiesced to the government's demands under the threat of billions of dollars in cuts. The administration also has paused federal funding for the University of Pennsylvania, Brown, Princeton, Cornell and Northwestern.

It is up to China to come to talks for a trade deal: Trump

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

President Donald Trump believes it is up to China, not the United States, to come to the negotiating table on trade, the White House said on Tuesday as tensions escalate between the world's two biggest economies.

"The ball is in China's court. China needs to make a deal with us. We don't have to make a deal with them," said a statement from Mr. Trump read out by Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt at a briefing.

"There's no difference between China and any other country except they are much larger," she added.

While Ms. Leavitt maintained that Mr. Trump was

Donald Trump

open to a deal with Beijing, she stressed that it was China that needed to step forward first.

This year alone, Mr. Trump has imposed an additional 145% tariff on many goods from China, stacking atop duties from previous administrations. This involved 20% over fentanyl and other illicit drugs, as well as 125% over trade practices.

Putin open to 'permanent peace' deal, says Witkoff

Agence France-Presse
WASHINGTON

U.S. President Donald Trump's special envoy said on Monday that Russian leader Vladimir Putin was open to a "permanent peace" deal with Ukraine, following talks seeking to end the more than three-year war.

Mr. Trump has been pressing Moscow and Kyiv to agree to a ceasefire but has failed to extract any major concessions from the Kremlin.

On Friday, Mr. Trump's special envoy, Steve Witkoff, met with Mr. Putin in Saint Petersburg.

Mr. Witkoff said during a *Fox News* interview televised on Monday that he sees a peace deal "emerging".

Israel killed at least 71 civilians in Lebanon since ceasefire: UN

Agence France-Presse
GENEVA

Israeli forces have killed dozens of civilians in Lebanon since a ceasefire took effect late last year, including a number of women and children, the United Nations said on Tuesday.

The UN rights office reported that Israeli military operations had killed and injured civilians in Lebanon in the four months since the fragile truce between Israel and Hezbollah on November 27.

"According to our initial review, at least 71 civilians have been killed by Israeli forces in Lebanon since the ceasefire came into effect," rights office spokesperson Thameen Al-Kheetan told presspersons in Geneva.

The strikes had hit several civilian infrastructure. AFP

The rights office noted that Israeli strikes on Lebanese territory had hit civilian infrastructure since the ceasefire, including residential buildings, medical facilities, roads and at least one cafe.

Deportation drive: 60,000 Afghans exit Pakistan in 2 weeks

Agence France-Presse
KABUL

Nearly 60,000 Afghans have been forced to leave Pakistan since the start of April, the International Organisation for Migration said on Tuesday, after Islamabad ramped up a campaign to deport migrants to Afghanistan.

Pakistan last month set an early April deadline for some 8,00,000 Afghans carrying Afghan Citizen Cards (ACC) issued by the Pakistani authorities to leave the country, in the second phase of efforts to remove Afghans.

"Between 1 and 13 April 2025, IOM recorded a sharp rise in forced returns, with nearly 60,000 individuals crossing back into Afghanistan through the Torkham and Spin Boldak border points," the UN agency said in a statement.

Families with their belongings in tow have crowded the crossings at Torkham in the north and Spin Boldak in the south, recalling scenes in 2023 when tens of thousands of Afghans fled deportation threats in Pakistan.

The UN says nearly three million Afghans live in Pakistan, many having been there for decades, after fleeing successive conflicts in their country and following the Taliban's return to power in Kabul in 2021.

Maldives bans Israeli passport holders, in 'resolute solidarity' with Palestine

Meera Srinivasan
COLOMBO

The Maldives on Tuesday announced a ban on Israeli tourists to the scenic island nation, reaffirming its "resolute solidarity" with the Palestinian cause.

President Mohamed Muizzu ratified the Third Amendment to the Maldives Immigration Act, passed by parliament or People's Majlis on April 15, his office said. The move reflects the government's "firm stance in response to the continuing atrocities and ongoing acts of genocide committed by Israel against the Palestinian people", a statement from his office said.

"The Government of Maldives reaffirms its resolute solidarity with the Palestinian cause and its enduring commitment to the promotion and protection of the rights of the Palestinian people. The Maldives continues to advocate for accountability for violations of international law and remains vocal across various international platforms in its condemnation of Israel's actions," it further said.

Israel is not among the top 10 source markets of the Indian Ocean archipelago, whose economy relies heavily on tourism. According to data published by Maldivian Tourism authorities, the popular destination of pristine beaches has received as

Mohamed Muizzu

many as 729,932 tourists this year, until April 14, 70% of whom went to the resorts located across islands. China is on top, accounting for 11% of the tourist arrivals, while India is at the sixth place, contributing 5% of arrivals this year. The ban on Israeli tourists, announced on Tuesday, comes into effect immediately, a spokesman at the President's office told news agency *AFP*.

With Tuesday's ratification, which formalises the Muizzu government's earlier pledge to impose a ban on the entry of visitors holding Israeli passports, the Maldives joins Bangladesh and Pakistan in the South Asian region in banning Israeli passport holders from entering their countries. Recently, Bangladesh also reintroduced the "except Israel" inscription on passports debarring its citizens from travelling to Israel, amid mounting public anger over Israel's relentless attacks on the Gaza Strip, claiming over 50,000 lives in the past 18 months.

DEPARTMENT OF MINORITY WELFARE
Directorate of Minorities
No.16C, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Bhavan, Miller Tank Bed Area, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru - 560 052.
Website: **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in**
e-mail: directordom@karnataka.gov.in, Helpline: 8277799990

Notification for Admissions of Moulana Azad Model Schools Year 2025-26

No: DOM/EW/MAMSA/CR-01/2024-25 Date: 15.04.2025

Online applications are invited for admissions in Moulana Azad Model Schools

Online applications are invited for admission to 6th standard for the Academic year 2025-26 in Moulana Azad Model Schools working under Directorate of Minorities in Karnataka. The eligible students can apply online through Seva Sindhu Portal **(https://sevasindhuservices.karnataka.gov.in/)** as mentioned below:

Application Submission Last Date:
10.05.2025

Schools and Tentative available seats details

Sl. No.	School Name	Total Number of Schools	Total Number Available Seats for Class 6th
1	Moulana Azad Model Schools (State Syllabus)	250	15000

Reservation Details

1. For Minorities Community (Muslim, Christians, Jains, Buddhist, Sikh & Parsi) - 75%
2. For SC, ST and Other Backward Classes - 25%

Documents Required for Online Application Submission

1. SATS Number, Aadhar Card, Valid Mobile Number.
2. Income and Caste Certificate, Physically Disabled Certificate, Passport Size Photo.

Interested students & parents can also visit nearby District Minority Office or Moulana Azad Model Schools or Taluk Minority Information Centers for using free service of applying online application through Seva Sindhu Portal line **https://sevasindhuservices.karnataka.gov.in/** for further brief notification, Admission manual & other details please visit our website: **https://dom.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/-
Director
Directorate of Minorities, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/222/2025-26

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Sarvagnanagara Division, 7th Floor, P.U. Building, M.G. Road, Bengaluru-560001.

No. EE(SGN)/KPPP/Tend/02/2025-26 Date: 15.04.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

Two Cover System (Only through GoK KPP Portal)

The Executive Engineer, Sarvagnanagara Division, East Zone, BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf the Commissioner, BBMP invites Tenders from eligible contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Govt. Organisations for the following works.

Sl. No.	Name of the Work	Approx. value of work
1	Additional and Balance Constructions to Multispeciality Hospital at HBR Layout (Call-02).	Rs. 500.00 lakhs
	EMD : Rs. 7,50,000/- (Rs. 1.00 lakh through e-payment and balance Rs. 6,50,000/- through BG/FDR should be submitted before opening of Technical bid.	

Period of Completion : **180 days.**

Calendar of Events: **(1)** Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 22.04.2025, 4.00 pm. (2)** Date of Pre-bid Meeting **: 25.04.2025 at 4.00 pm. at the above office. (3)** Last date for uploading the filled tender documents : **02.05.2025 upto 4.00 pm. (4)** Date of opening of Technical bids : **03.05.2025 at 4.30 pm. if possible or next working day.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Sarvagnanagara Division, BBMP

Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited
(Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Regd. Office: 'A' Block, 5th Floor, TTMC Building, BMTC, Shanthinagar, K.H. Road, Bengaluru - 560 027.
Phone:080-22278813/14/15/16
Fax No.080-22213172 **www.ksmc.karnataka.gov.in**

No. KSMCL/PER/Tender Document/191/2025-26/114 Date: 15-04-2025

e-Tender Invitation

KSMCL invites e-Tender for selection of Agency/Firms for providing Security Guards Services on Outsources basis vide e-tender invitation No. KSMCL/PER/Tender Document/191/2025-26. **Calendar of Events**

Tender Reference	:	KSMCL/2025-26/SE0042
Commencement to Download from website: http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in	:	From 16.04.2025
Last date for receiving pre-bid queries	:	23.04.2025 at 5:00 pm
Pre-bid meeting at H O of KSMCL	:	24.04.2025 at 12:00 Noon
Last date and time for uploading of e-tender in KPP platform on or before	:	15.05.2025 up to 5:00 pm
Opening of Technical Bid in e-portal	:	17.05.2025 at 11:30 am
EMD & Tender No.	:	Rs. 3,05,000 /-
Address	:	**Executive Director Karnataka State Minerals Corporation Limited** TTMC,'A' Block, 5th Floor, BMTC Building, K.H. Road, Shanthinagar, Bangalore-560027. Ph.No:0800-22278813/14/15.

The e-Tender document can be downloaded from e-procurement **website : https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/** Contact KPP help desk: No: 080-46010000 **email-support@eprochelpdesk.com** for any support in uploading and registration.

DIPR/CP/RO216/AAPL/2025-26 **Sd/- General Manager (A & V)**

GRATEFUL

I want to dedicate my knock to the net bowlers: Rasheed

SANDEEP SAXENA

I was very nervous. Shivam [Dube] and Mahi *bhai* [M.S. Dhoni] said 'keep your body as calm as possible. Don't look at the audience. Just react to the ball'. I want to dedicate this knock to the net bowlers. They bowled so well. They put in a lot of effort for me — CSK opener Shaik Rasheed in a video posted by IPL.

BIG DIFFERENCE

The use of saliva has definitely made an impact, says Mohit

FILE PHOTO: K. MURALI KUMAR

The decision of the IPL to allow the use of saliva to polish the ball has been welcomed by fast bowlers. Delhi Capitals seamer Mohit Sharma said on Tuesday that reverse swing has again become a factor in the death overs. "It has made a 100% difference. In a majority of the games, the ball is tailing in," said Mohit.

ROUTINE

No problem with umpires checking our bats: Nitish Rana

SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

My bat was also checked. In that game, bats of 60-70% players were checked. The bats are made by the company that sponsors us. But if the umpires want to check it for their satisfaction, we don't have a problem — Nitish Rana after the dimension of the bat used by RR's Shimron Hetmyer was checked in the match against RCB.

ON A ROLL

Capitals hope Kuldeep will continue in the same vein

SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

With 10 wickets in five matches at an economy rate of 5.6 this season, Kuldeep Yadav has been exceptional for Delhi Capitals. Seamer Mohit Sharma heaped praise on the left-arm wrist spinner. "He has been among the best bowlers in the tournament. Despite small grounds and dew, nobody has been able to get the better of him".

Chahal and Jansen bowl Kings to a sensational win

Knight Riders batters falter in the chase as wickets fall like nine pins; the home team's ultra-aggressive batting approach, too, backfires before the bowlers lead the stunning fightback

Wreckers-in-chief: Teammates rush in to congratulate Chahal and Jansen as Russell chops one on to the stumps to signal the end of a roller-coaster ride. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

IPL-18

Sahil Mathur
NEW CHANDIGARH

Punjab Kings has produced extremes on the last two occasions it has met Kolkata Knight Riders in the IPL. Last year, the Kings completed a record chase of 262, and on Tuesday, the home side defended the lowest total in the tournament's history – 111.

The spectators here at the Maharaja Yadavindra Singh International Cricket Stadium leaped in joy when Marco Jansen cleaned up Andre Russell as the Knight Riders fell 17 runs short of the target.

Yuzvendra Chahal led the home team's historic fightback, claiming four for 28, including the key wickets of Angkrish Raghuvanshi and Ajinkya Rahane, who put on a 55-run third wicket stand after openers Sunil Narine and Quinton de Kock fell early.

The duo played a few classic drives and seemed to steer the team to a win and two points comfortably.

However, Chahal, introduced in the eighth over, claimed Rahane off his fourth ball and had Raghuvanshi caught in his next over.

Glenn Maxwell then had Venkatesh Iyer struck in front before Chahal came back to have Rinku Singh stumped and Ramandeep Singh caught off the next ball.

Right on the money

Andre Russell hit the leg-spinner for 16 runs, threatening to take the game away. However, Punjab's bowlers were right on the money and didn't let the game slip away.

Earlier, Harshit Rana triggered a top-order collapse as Kolkata shot down Punjab for 111.

He claimed three for 25 inside the PowerPlay as the Kings lost four wickets before the fielding restrictions ended.

Despite the early wickets, Punjab batters persisted with attacking.

However, Varun Chakavarathy and Sunil Narine didn't move away from the stump-to-stump line and picked two wickets each.

Going past 100

Shashank Singh hit a six and a four in his 18 off 17 to take PBKS' total past the 100-run mark.

However, Vaibhav Arora trapped him in front, and a mix-up between the last-wicket pair found the home team walking back inside 16 overs.

SCOREBOARD

PUNJAB KINGS
Priyansh Arya c Ramandeep b Harshit 22 *(12b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Prabhsimran Singh c Ramandeep b Harshit 30 *(15b, 2x4, 3x6)*, Shreyas Iyer c Ramandeep b Harshit 0 *(2b)*, Josh Inglis b Varun 2 *(6b)*, Nehal Wadhera c Venkatesh b Nortje 10 *(9b, 2x4)*, Glenn Maxwell b Varun 7 *(10b, 1x4)*, Suryansh Shedge (**Impact Player for Prabhsimran**) c de Kock b Narine 4 *(4b)*, Shashank Singh lbw b Vaibhav 18 *(17b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Marco Jansen b Narine 1 *(2b)*, Xavier Bartlett run out 11 *(15b, 1x4)*, Arshdeep Singh (not out) 1 *(1b)*; Extras (w-3, b-2): 5; Total (in 15.3 overs): 111.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-39 (Priyansh, 3.2 overs), 2-39 (Shreyas, 3.4), 3-42 (Inglis, 4.5), 4-54 (Prabhsimran, 5.6), 5-74 (Wadhera, 8.4), 6-76 (Maxwell, 9.1), 7-80 (Shedge, 10.1), 8-86 (Jansen, 10.6), 9-109 (Shashank, 15.1).

KNIGHT RIDERS BOWLING
Vaibhav 2.3-0-26-1, Nortje 3-0-23-1, Harshit 3-0-25-3, Varun 4-0-21-2, Narine 3-0-14-2.

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS
Quinton de Kock c Shedge b Bartlett 2 *(4b)*, Sunil Narine b Jansen 5 *(4b, 1x4)*, Ajinkya Rahane lbw b Chahal 17 *(17b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Angkrish Raghuvanshi **(Impact Player for Varun)** c Bartlett b Chahal 37 *(28b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Venkatesh Iyer lbw b Maxwell 7 *(4b)*, Rinku Singh st. Inglis b Chahal 2 *(9b)*, Andre Russell b Jansen 17 *(11b, 1x4, 2x6)*, Ramandeep Singh c Shreyas b Chahal 0 *(1b)*, Harshit Rana b Jansen 3 *(6b)*, Vaibhav Arora c Inglis b Arshdeep 0 *(7b)*, Anrich Nortje (not out) 0 *(0b)*; Extras (lb-4, w-1): 5; Total (in 15.1 overs): 95.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-7 (Narine, 0.6), 2-7 (de Kock, 1.2), 3-62 (Rahane, 7.4), 4-72 (Raghuvanshi, 9.1), 5-74 (Venkatesh, 10.4), 6-76 (Rinku, 11.3), 7-76 (Ramandeep, 11.4), 8-79 (Harshit, 12.5), 9-95 (Vaibhav, 14.6).

KINGS BOWLING
Jansen 3.1-0-17-3, Bartlett 3-0-30-1, Arshdeep 3-1-11-1, Chahal 4-0-28-4, Maxwell 2-0-5-1.
Toss: PBKS. **PoM:** Chahal.
PBKS won by 16 runs.

Next assignment

PBKS: April 18 vs **RCB**
Bengaluru, 7.30 p.m.

KKR: April 21 vs **GT**
Kolkata, 7.30 p.m.

> At the halfway mark, not many would have given us a chance. That might be the best win I have had as a coach in the IPL
>
> **RICKY PONTING**
> PBKS head coach

Capitals keen to turn things around as they take on a desperate Royals

Vivek Krishnan
NEW DELHI

In the marathon that is the Indian Premier League (IPL), losing a match after winning four on the trot isn't necessarily a bad thing. It can help address a few frailties that may tend to get brushed under the carpet during a winning streak.

For Delhi Capitals, then, the 12-run defeat to Mumbai Indians at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Sunday in its fifth match of the season may have come at an appropriate time.

As it gears up for another home game against Rajasthan Royals on Wednesday, there are a couple of crucial cogs in the DC camp who will be hoping to fire. At the top of the order, Jake Fraser-McGurk has not teed off in the manner that his ball-striking ability warrants. His subpar scores have meant that DC has had only one opening stand of fifty-plus in five matches.

Raring to go: DC's Karun will be hoping to continue from where he left off against MI. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Yet to light up the stage is also skipper Axar Patel. Beneath his jovial exterior is a seriously good all-rounder, but his returns this season haven't been on par with his standing.

His left-arm spin hasn't yielded any breakthroughs, and he hasn't capitalised on his starts in the middle-order.

Today's match

DELHI CAPITALS vs. RAJASTHAN ROYALS

Delhi, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: **29**
DC **14** | RR **15**

PREVIOUS MEETING
DC won by 20 runs, 2024

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIOHOTSTAR

In the wake of two consecutive defeats, RR, of course, has graver concerns. While it has an impressive array of individuals in the batting unit, the likes of Yashasvi Jaiswal, Sanju Samson, Riyan Parag and Shimron Hetmyer haven't clicked as a collective.

The bowling attack seems overly reliant on Jofra Archer for wickets inside the first six overs. When he doesn't deliver, Samson has a hard job reining in the opposition.

Harmeet, Sreeja retained by Goa and Jaipur; Manika in a new team

UTT

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Harmeet Desai and Sreeja Akula were retained by Goa Challengers TTC and Jaipur Patriots with the Right-To-Match card, while Manika Batra was signed by Ahmedabad SG Pipers after PBG Pune Jaguars let go of her at the auction ahead of Ultimate Table Tennis' sixth edition.

"It was a strategic call. She was with our team for two seasons, and we realised in both the seasons, we were slightly weak in the overseas female paddlers' section," Punit Balan, owner of Jaguars, told *The Hindu* here on Tuesday.

"We are extremely happy to have invested in Taneesha, who has already risen among the top female paddlers in India and is ready to take on the mantle."

UTT adopted the auction model for the first time. Each team was allotted a notional purse of ₹50 lakh and had to sign six players – three men and three women, including an overseas paddler in both.

The value attached to a player will not be the actual amount, and all of them will have a contract with the UTT for an undisclosed sum.

Still, the franchise owners indulged in a fierce bidding war, with Fan Siqi, the only Chinese participant in UTT 2025, the most valued one at 19.70 lakh.

Harmeet Desai and Sreeja Akula. R. RAGU & PTI

Among the Indians, Harmeet was RTMed after four teams concluded the bidding at 14 lakh tokens while S.F.R. Snehit fetched almost five times the amount of his base price of 2 lakh tokens.

Olympian Sutirtha Mukherjee remained unsold.

The 2025 edition will be held in Ahmedabad from May 29 to June 15.

The squads:

Goa Challengers TTC: Zeng Jian (17.20 lakh tokens), Harmeet Desai (RTM, 14), Tiago Apolonia (7), Ronit Bhanja (4), Krittwika Sinha Roy (4), Sayali Wani (3.70).

Chennai Lions: Kiril Gerassimenko (12.40), Payas Jain (11.60), Sudhanshu Grover (2), Fan Siqi (19.70), Nikhat Banu (2), Jennifer Varghese (2).

Dabang Delhi TTC: Diya Chitale (RTM, 14.10), Maria Xiao (12.60), G. Sathiyan (10), Quek Izaac (7), Suhana Saini (2.3), Sourav Saha (2.1).

PBG Pune Jaguars: Alvaro Robles (18.10), Anirban Ghosh (4), Mudit Dani (2.20), Dina Meshref (11), Reeth Rishya (4), Taneesha Kotecha (RTM, 4).

U Mumba TT: Lilian Bardet (11.10), Akash Pal (RTM, 4), P.B. Abhinandh (2.10), Bernadette Szocs (15.30), Yashaswini Ghorpade (8.60), Swastika Ghosh (7).

Kolkata ThunderBlades: Quadri Aruna (11), Ankur Bhattacharjee (RTM, 11.40), Deepit Patil (2), Adriana Diaz (19.30), Selena Selvakumar (3.90), Ananya Chande (2).

Jaipur Patriots: Britt Eerland (11.1), Kanak Jha (11), Sreeja Akula (RTM, 11), Jeet Chandra (5.7), Pritha Vartikar (2.4), Yashansh Malik (2).

Ahmedabad SG Pipers: Manika Batra (12), Ricardo Walther (11.6), SFR Snehit (9.9), Giorgia Piccolin (7), Divyansh Srivastava (4), Yashini Sivashankar (2).

INBRIEF

Mirabai named IWLF athletes' commission chairperson

Olympic silver medallist Mirabai Chanu and Commonwealth Games gold medallist S. Sathish Kumar have been elected as the chairperson and vice-chairman, respectively, of the athletes' commission of the Indian Weightlifting Federation (IWLF). The duration of their term will be four years.

Chhetri says the ISL final loss has hurt him immensely

Bengaluru FC captain Sunil Chhetri admitted that the loss to Mohun Bagan Super Giant in the Indian Super League (ISL) final has hurt him immensely. "I know how all of you are feeling. Losing stinks. And this one will linger for a while," Chhetri, who scored 14 goals in 28 matches this season, the highest scorer among the Indians, wrote on his social media accounts. "I did what everyone does after losing a final. I sat with all the what-ifs and should-haves. The freekick. The header. Every half chance."

Aryan Shah bows out in opening round

Fifth seed Ricardas Berankis of Lithuania beat Aryan Shah 3-6, 6-2, 6-4 in the first round of the $60,000 Challenger tennis tournament in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, on Tuesday.

Other results (first round): Michael Geerts (Bel) bt Adil Kalyanpur 6-1, 6-3.

Shreyas wins ICC Men's Player of the Month Award

India's Shreyas Iyer on Tuesday won the ICC Men's Player of the Month Award for March after playing a stellar role in Champions Trophy win. Shreyas finished as the highest scorer with 243 runs in the tournament, overcoming competition from New Zealand's Jacob Duffy and Rachin Ravindra. The 30-year-old scored 172 runs in three matches in March, averaging 57.33.

Newcastle manager Howe to miss next two games

Newcastle manager Eddie Howe will miss the club's next two Premier League games after being diagnosed with pneumonia. Howe watched the Magpies' 4-1 win over United on Sunday from his hospital bed after being admitted on Friday having felt unwell. Newcastle has now said he will also miss Wednesday's home match against Crystal Palace and Saturday's trip to Aston Villa, with assistants Jason Tindall and Graeme Jones due to prepare the team in his absence.

Real's Luka Modric becomes co-owner of Swansea City

Real Madrid great Luka Modric became a co-owner of Swansea City on Monday. While the amount invested by the six-time Champions League winner was not revealed, Swansea said Modric would "play a key role in helping the club progress both on and off the pitch".

Aditya leaps to the long jump gold; Yashvir stuns Jena in men's javelin

Despite a bad back, Toor lives up to the favourite status in shot put; Jeswin finishes seventh in long jump; Jacob, Anas fail to deliver in the 400m

ATHLETICS

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

Participating in his first event since the 2024 Paris Olympics, much was expected from long jumper Jeswin Aldrin. The 23-year-old, however, failed to deliver, finishing seventh after pulling a hamstring, in the Indian Open athletics meet at the Nehru Stadium here on Tuesday.

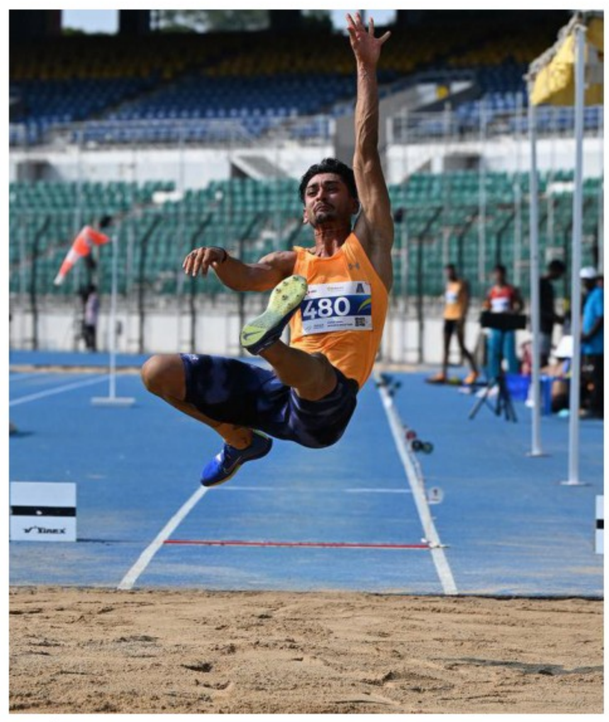
Aditya Kumar Singh, also 23, from Varanasi stunned the field to bag gold with a leap of 7.74m.

Fouls

Jeswin, the National record holder, jumped 7.36m in his first attempt, fouled the next three, did not attempt his fifth before fouling his sixth and final run.

"I was looking forward to the event but during warm-up, I developed the pain," Jeswin said.

In another major upset of the day, Yashvir Singh of Railways won the men's javelin with a 77.49m effort, outshining Kishore Jena, the 2022 Asian Games silver medallist, who finished second with a 75.99m.



Exemplary: Yashvir and Aditya hogged the limelight with superb efforts in their events. B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

Despite a back issue, favourite Tejinderpal Singh Toor claimed the shot put gold, thanks to his first throw of 17.61m.

He fouled the next two before deciding not to go ahead with the next three throws. In men's 400m, favourite Amoj Jacob pulled out midway in the final citing an hamstring issue while Md. Anas, the National record holder, ran the heats but chose not to run the final.

The results (winners only):
Men: 100m: Race-A: Gitson (TN) 1073s; **B:** Paras (HP) 10.75; **C:** Pranav Pramod (Rlys) 10.38s.
110m hurdles: Race-A: Rathish Pandi (Reliance) 14.36s; **B:** R. Manav (Rlys) 13.94s.
200m: Race-A: Dondapati Mrutyam MA (Odi) 21.67s; **B:** Animesh Kujur (Odi) 21.14s.
400m hurdles: Race-A: Subhas Das (JSW) 50.96s.
B: Jabir Madari Palliyal (Navy) 51.85.
800m: Race-A: Satyam Chauhan (Army) 1:51.64s; **B:** Anu Kumar (Utr) 1:48.95s.
400m: A: Kapil (Army) 47.58s; **B:** Aswin Krishnan (TN) 47.45s;
1500m: Yoonus Shah (JSW) 3:45.11s;
Long jump: Aditya Kumar Singh (UP) 7.74m; **high jump:** Shaik Mohiddin (AP) 2.08m; **shot put:** Tajinderpal Singh Toor (Pun) 17.61m; **javelin:** Yashvir Singh (Rlys) 77.49m.
Women: 100m hurdles: Nithya Ramraj (TN) 13.32s; **400m hurdles:** Vithya Ramraj (TN) 56.90s; **100m: Race-A:** Kiruthika (TN) 11.87s.
B: Charu Shoukeen (Del) 12.30s; **C:** Sneha SS (Kar) 11.79s; **800m:** Twinkle Chaudhary (Pun) 2:09.39s; **1500m:** Lili Das (Utr) 4:13.74s.
Pole vault: E. Baranica (TN) 3.90m; **Long jump:** Shaili Singh (UP) 6.45m.
Triple jump: K. N. Bhumika (Kar) 12.05m; **javelin:** Shakshi Sharma (UP) 46.79m; **Shot put:** Poorna Subodh Raora (Mah) 16.27m.

SNAPSHOTS

Champion again: Punjab overwhelmed a fighting Madhya Pradesh. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Punjab men reclaim National hockey title

Former champion Punjab overwhelmed a fighting Madhya Pradesh to reclaim the title 4-1 in the final of the 15th men's National hockey at Jhansi on Tuesday.
The results:
Final: Punjab 4 (Jugraj Singh 30, 49, Jaskaran Singh 38, Maninder Singh 46) beat Madhya Pradesh 1 (Pratap Lakra 28).
Third place: Uttar Pradesh 5 (Sourabh Kushwaha 22, 49, Shardanand Tiwari 35, Atul Deep 48, Shivam Anand 60) beat Manipur 1 (Dhananjoy Meetei 45).

Divya and Zhu in the lead

Divya Deshmukh and second seed Zhu Jiner of China took an early joint lead in the FIDE women's Grand Prix chess at Amanora-The Fern, Pune, on Tuesday.
The results: Second round: Salome Milia (Geo) 0.5 drew with Koneru Humpy 1; Divya Deshmukh 2 bt R. Vaishali 0.5; Polina Shuvalova (Rus) 1.5 drew with Nurgyul Salimova (Bul) 0.5; D. Harika 0.5 drew with Alina Kashlinskaya (Pol) 0.5; Mungutuul Batkhuyag (Mng) 1 lost to Zhu Jiner (Chn) 1.

Advani in title round

Pankaj Advani reached the final of IBSF World billiards championship, defeating Dhurv Sitwala 1070-300 in the semifinal at Carlow, Ireland.

Karnataka girls in summit clash

Karnataka beat Chhattisgarh 74-60 to enter the girls' final in National youth basketball championships in Puducherry on Tuesday.
The results: Semifinals: Boys: Rajasthan bt Delhi 104-86; Tamil Nadu bt Haryana 86-77.
Girls: Karnataka 74 bt Chhattisgarh 74-60; Maharashtra 61 bt Tamil Nadu 61-57.

14-member Indian squad for Sudirman Cup Finals

The Badminton Association of India (BAI) on Tuesday announced a 14-member-strong India squad for the Sudirman Cup Finals to be played in Xiamen, China from April 27.
The squad: Men: Lakshya Sen, H.S. Prannoy, Satwiksairaj Rankireddy, Chirag Shetty, Hariharan Amsakarunan, Ruban Kumar R, Dhruv Kapila, Sathish Kumar Karunakaran. **Women:** P.V. Sindhu, Anupama Upadhyaya, Tanisha Crasto, Priya Konjengbam, Shruti Mishra, Aadya Variyath.

Lukaku dazzles as Napoli keeps up pressure on Inter

Romelu Lukaku made sure that Napoli would stay three points behind Serie A leader Inter Milan with a goal and two assists in Monday's 3-0 win over struggling Empoli.
The results: Serie A: Napoli 3 (McTominay 18, 61, Lukaku 56) bt Empoli 0.
LaLiga: Atletico Madrid 4 (Alvarez 25-pen, 71-pen, Simeone 27, Sorloth 79) bt Valladolid 2 (Sylla 21-pen, Sanchez 56).
Premier League: Bournemouth 1 (Semenyo 1) bt Fulham 0.

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Bengaluru FC lodges complaint with AIFF and FSDL for attack on its supporters

Bengaluru FC, on Tuesday, released a statement condemning the alleged "reckless and cowardly attack" on their supporters during the Indian Super League final against Mohun Bagan Super Giant in Kolkata on Saturday.
BFC, which lost the final 1-2 after extra-time, stated that it had lodged a formal complaint with the All India Football Federation (AIFF) and FSDL (operators of ISL).
The club claimed that a supporter sustained an eye injury and even club owner Parth Jindal suffered burns and bruises when a fire-cracker was thrown in their direction.

Five in joint lead

Ethan Vaz, Manuel Petrosyan, Levan Pantsulaia, Marat Dzhumaev and Nithin Babu share joint lead with six points each after the seventh round of the Namma Bengaluru International Grandmasters Open Chess tournament being held at the Koramangala Indoor stadium.
With three rounds left in the Swiss League event, top seed P. Iniyan is just half a point behind the leaders.
Pranav Anand, the teen sensation from Karnataka who had shot into sole lead with six points in as many games has withdrawn from the tournament and was not paired in the seventh round.

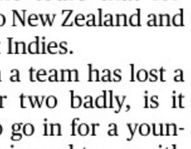
Abhinav scores the winner

T.P. Abhinav's injury-time strike proved the difference as Jawahar Union FC edged out Vijayanagara FC 1-0 in the BDFA A-division league championship football here on Tuesday.
The results: AGORC FC 2 (Sudarshan V. Lokur 36, A. Akash (OG) 42) drew with RWF FC 2 (P. Harish 30, S. Rajesh 75); Jawahar Union FC 1 (T.P. Abhinav 80+4) bt Vijayanagara FC 0.

Sports Hood beats Real Bengaluru

Sports Hood defeated FC Real Bengaluru 5-2 in the KSFA Women's B-division league championship football here on Tuesday.
Other results:
FC Deccan 4 bt GRK 1; Goals FC 1 drew with Pass FC 1.

Thinking ahead to the England tour – the future can wait



BETWEEN WICKETS
Suresh Menon

Some five decades ago, after India had been swamped 0-3 in a Test series in England, skipper Ajit Wadekar, then 34, quickly announced his retirement. India had to find a captain with experience and the ability to motivate a team down in the dumps.

They settled on Wadekar's predecessor, the charismatic Nawab of Pataudi Jr. who had not played in over four years. When the selectors initially offered him the job for the first two Tests in the home series against the West Indies, Pataudi told them it had to be all five or nothing.

The selectors relented, and Pataudi led in one of the most exciting series, India levelling the scores after losing the first two Tests before losing the decider in Mumbai. Having put Indian cricket on an even keel, Pataudi handed over charge to Bishan Bedi who led in the tours that followed, to New Zealand and the West Indies.

When a team has lost a series or two badly, is it better to go in for a younger captain and team with the long-term view, or to plump for experience and an ad hoc approach, with just one series in mind? That's a question the selectors will have to answer soon.

India play a five-Test series in England from June, having lost a home series to New Zealand 0-3 and lost 1-3 in Australia, both under Rohit Sharma. India won two ICC white ball tournaments under Rohit, but the captain averages 10.93 in his last eight Tests, with just one 50, and his place in the eleven must be in doubt.

Rohit Sharma turns 38 this month. He has been one of the most unselfish of Indian captains, a white ball great who never asks a player to do what he would not do himself. The two younger players who might lead are Jasprit Bumrah, 31, and Shubhman Gill, 25; Bumrah has led in a Test in England too.

There are others in the mix: K.L. Rahul, who has led in three Tests, and Rishabh Pant, who has been vice captain.

Indian cricket, like Indian politics, often invokes TINA, "there is no alternative". There is always an alternative, of course. In many ways, the England tour is a starting point. It is the first in the new cycle of the World Test Championship. It catches an Indian team in transition, with Rohit and Virat Kohli, 36, close to the end of their careers, and three, Rishabh Pant, Gill and Yashaswi Jaiswal set to carry the batting on their shoulders in the next generation. The odd man in the middle is K.L. Rahul. This is a good spread, although one or two more mid-career batters might allow the captain to breathe easier.

This is particularly important for a series in England. Experience and form have to come together, and when they do, you have the ideal candidate. Karun Nair's recent heroics in the IPL follows his monstrous run of scores in the Vijay Hazare Trophy, and more relevantly, his 863 runs in the Ranji season, the most by a Test player.

Nair is 33, which is not the end of the world, even if his Test match triple century might have come eight years ago. He has played First Class cricket in England for Northamptonshire for whom he has scored a double century and averaged over 50 each season. The manner in which he handled Bumrah in the IPL suggests he is ready for a comeback with his combination of skill, style and fettle.

Making Bumrah captain – and he is a fine strategist who understands his players well – over a long tour might be a bit of a risk although he is the best qualified after Rohit. He is India's trump card and will need to be handled delicately, perhaps even rested for a match, if he is to be fully effective.

Once the choice is made between ad hocism and preparing for the future, the selection falls into place. Virat Kohli, who has been there and done that might play the role Pataudi did, steadying the ship before handing it over to a younger man. The future can wait a little in that case.

Dalilah Muhammad is brand ambassador of TCS World 10K

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Dalilah Muhammad, the 2016 Rio Olympics gold medallist in women's 400m hurdles, has been named the International Event Ambassador for the 17th edition of the TCS World 10K Bengaluru, scheduled on April 27.

The American, considered one of the best quarter-milers the sport has seen, also secured silver at Tokyo 2020.

She was part of the famed American 4x400m relay team – comprising the legendary Allyson Felix – that won gold in Tokyo.

The 35-year-old, who has multiple World Championship titles to her name, made history at the 2019 USA Outdoor Track and Field Championships, breaking the 400m hurdles world record with a time of 52.20s, bettering Yuliya Pechonkina's 52.34s set in 2003.

Muhammad further improved it to 52.16s at the World Championships in Doha later that year.

LIVE TELECAST

IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.
Champions League: Sony Sports Ten 1, 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 12.30 a.m. (Thursday).